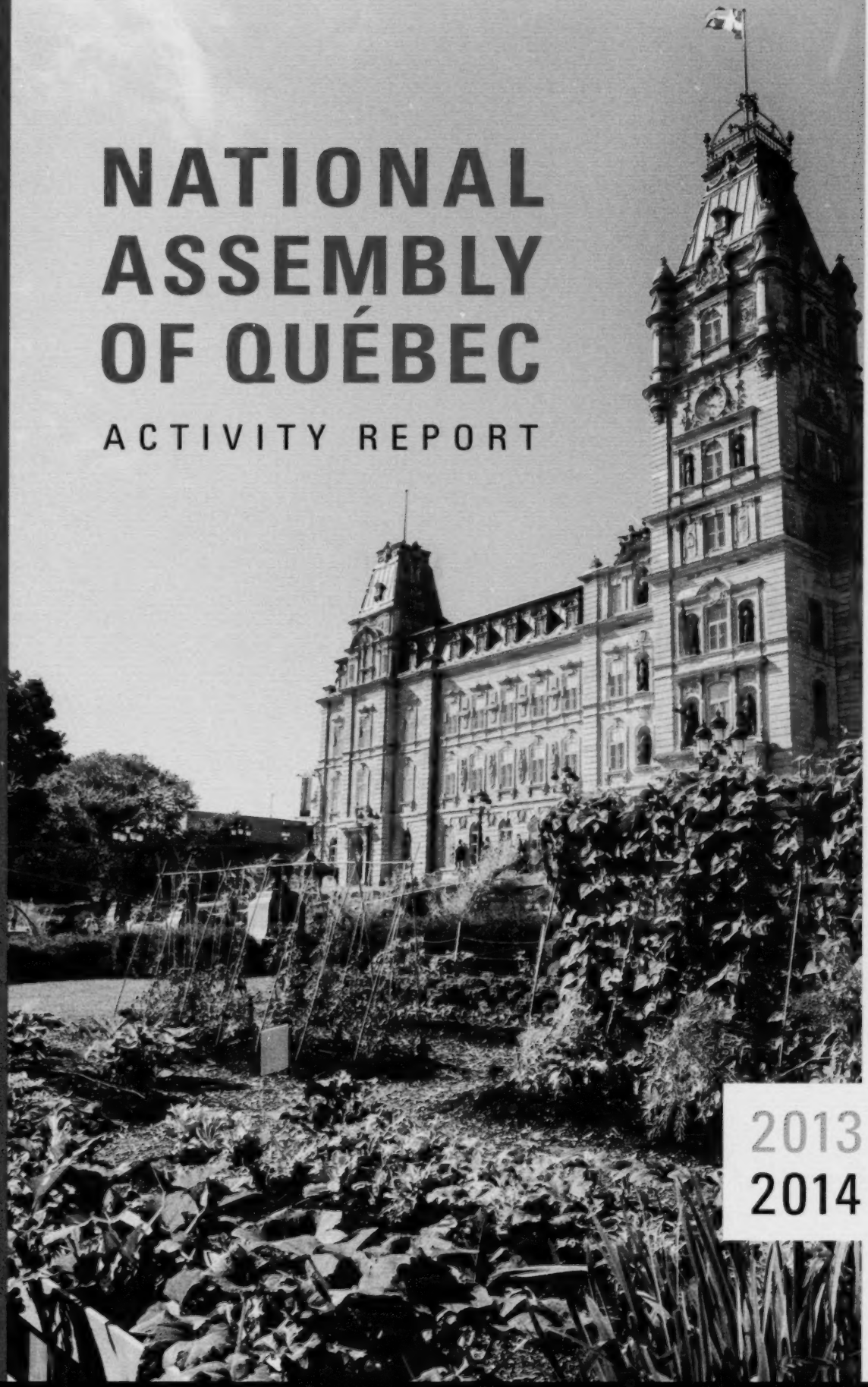
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

ACTIVITY REPORT



2013
2014

Front cover:
The National Assembly participates in a growing movement, urban agriculture.

Photo: Philippe Renaud, National Assembly Collection

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

ACTIVITY REPORT

2013
2014

This publication was prepared in collaboration with the senior management and the personnel of all the administrative units of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise specified, the information in this activity report covers the National Assembly's activities from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am proud to present the Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec 2013-2014. This document provides an overview of the parliamentary work and achievements of the National Assembly. Again this year, Members devoted much of their efforts to legislative work, particularly the consideration of bills, which occupied more than 60 % of their time in the standing committees.

The year was highlighted, among other things, by the visit of His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of the Francophonie, who, at my invitation, addressed the parliamentarians gathered in the National Assembly Chamber. This visit constituted a rare event, as this was only the sixth time that a guest took the floor in these premises. Mr. Diouf argued in favour of multilingualism and of overhauling global governance. Furthermore, he underlined the major contribution of Quebecers to raising the profile of the Francophonie and to promoting the French language.

Also in the international relations sector, the National Assembly welcomed some thirty women hailing from the French-speaking community, during an intersessional meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, in January 2014. The representation of women in politics and the education of girls were among the topics addressed.

A few days later, nearly 80 women parliamentarians of the Francophonie, Americas and Commonwealth networks held a seminar. At the end of this meeting, they adopted a declaration in which they committed to continuing their efforts to support women's rights, within their respective Parliaments, in view of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in 2015.

Furthermore, I would be remiss not to draw your attention to two milestone anniversaries, that of the 50th anniversary of the Journal des débats, whose first issue was published on 14 January 1964, and that of the 35th anniversary of the broadcasting of debates, which we celebrated in October 2013.

Lastly, on 5 March 2014, the Lieutenant Governor proclaimed the dissolution of the Assembly, thus ending the 40th Legislature.

I hope that this report will allow you to become more acquainted with your Parliament and to fully grasp the scope of the work of the Members and the personnel of the National Assembly for the benefit of Québec democracy.

Enjoy your reading!

Jacques Chagnon
President of the National Assembly

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Like the President, I am pleased to present this 15th activity report of the National Assembly. At the outset, I would like to underline the efforts expended by the personnel of the National Assembly to support parliamentary work and the Members so that they may efficiently carry out their mission as legislators, overseers of government action and intermediaries between the citizens and the public administration. I wish to take this opportunity to thank them. Here are a few of the achievements that marked the year.

The Assembly collaborated with the Urbainculteurs, an organization committed to promoting urban agriculture, so that new thematic sections could be set up in its gardens. Inaugurated in June 2013, these sections include an array of urban vegetable patches that allow visitors to become more familiar with Québec's emblematic crops. This initiative is in line with attaining the objectives of the Assembly's sustainable development action plan.

Constantly striving to reach out to the citizens, the Assembly launched its mobile site in May 2013. Its website content was adapted so that users may stay on top of parliamentary news wherever they are via their smart devices.

Moreover, in October 2013, the National Assembly, in collaboration with the French National Assembly and Laval University's Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions, launched a new online course on Comparative Parliamentarism (Québec – France). This course, which is part of Laval University's undergraduate program for political science, is intended for parliamentarians, public servants and anyone who wants to learn more about democratic life in Québec and French societies.

Lastly, the very first English version of *La procédure parlementaire du Québec* (Parliamentary Procedure in Québec), which traces the development of parliamentary law, was published in February 2014. This book is an invaluable reference work for anyone interested in the foundations of parliamentary procedure as practised in Québec and in how it applies within the context of parliamentary proceedings.

This report concludes a year in which the Assembly once again intensified its efforts in a variety of areas to enhance its profile and visibility among citizens.

Michel Bonsaint
Secretary General of the National Assembly

The end of the 40th Legislature

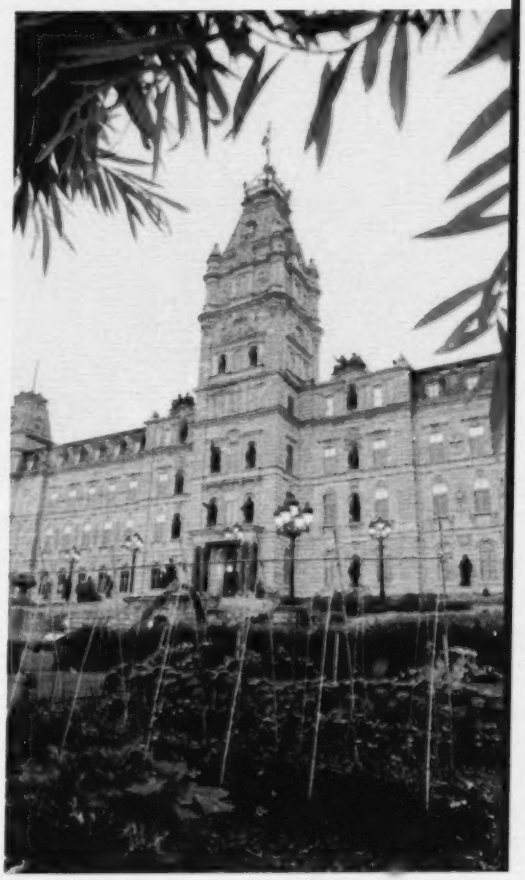
On 5 March 2014, on the recommendation of the Premier, the Lieutenant-Governor proclaimed the dissolution of the National Assembly, thus ending the 40th Legislature. Consequently, a general election was called for 7 April 2014 to allow the citizens to choose the 125 Members of the 41st Legislature.

The 40th Legislature was marked by two special events. For the first time in Québec's history, a woman was elected Premier, and Québec elected a minority government, the second since 1878.

The vegetable gardens of the National Assembly

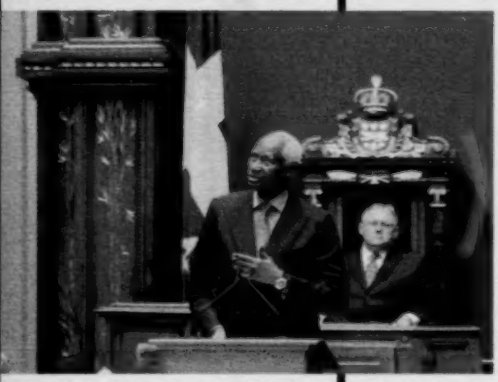
On 13 June 2013, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, presented the new edible plant areas in the front of the Parliament Building. This initiative is a collaborative venture between the Assembly and the Urbainculteurs, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting gardening and urban agriculture. This project is in keeping with the action plan for sustainable development adopted by the Assembly in 2009.

The Assembly also took part in the Urban Honey project, in collaboration with Miellerie de Champlain, which installed beehives on the roof of Jean-Antoine-Panet Building.



The vegetable gardens include certain crops as a tribute to the first inhabitants, and an alley of fruit trees.

Visit of His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf



His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf addressed the Assembly.

On 18 September 2013, His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of La Francophonie, addressed the parliamentarians gathered in the National Assembly Chamber. Enjoying this privilege that has rarely been granted in the history of Québec, Mr. Diouf underlined the major contribution of Quebecers to strengthening the influence of the international francophone community. At the end of the ceremony, Mr. Jacques Chagnon awarded Mr. Diouf with the President's Medal, the highest honour awarded by the National Assembly of Québec, in recognition of his outstanding contribution as head of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie for over ten years.

A new course on Comparative Parliamentarism (Québec-France)

In fall 2013, the National Assembly of Québec, in collaboration with the French National Assembly and Laval University's Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions, introduced an online course on Comparative Parliamentarism (Québec-France).

This university course provides insight into the inner workings of both assemblies and into the parliamentary work of two systems stemming from different legal traditions: the French system based on statute law, and that of Québec, which is of British tradition.

This three-credit course, which is intended for university students and researchers, is available via a dynamic web-based platform. It is also designed for parliamentarians and public servants, as well as any person who wants to learn more about the way the democratic process is carried out in Québec and French society.

Mobility and social media

Mobile sites and social media have taken an important place among the channels of communication of the National Assembly to meet the growing needs of citizens.

Regarding mobility, the main sections of the National Assembly website have been adapted to enable access using smart devices. In particular, the mobile site allows users to keep abreast of the progress of bills and to access the biographical notices of the 125 Members. It is also possible to watch Assembly and committee proceedings live online and to simultaneously watch several other activities live, such as press conferences.

The National Assembly is also active on social media. Its Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts provide non-partisan parliamentary and institutional news.

Follow the National Assembly on social media:

YouTube

assnat.qc.ca/mediassociaux

The 2013 Political Book Prize at the Salon international du livre de Québec

The Political Book Prize awards ceremony was held for the first time on the Espace jeunesse Desjardins stage at the Salon international du livre de Québec, on 11 April 2013. The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, and the Vice-President, Mr. Claude Cousineau, awarded prizes to the deserving political authors. The National Assembly hosted an information booth during the Salon.

The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, at the Salon international du livre de Québec.

The 50th anniversary of the *Journal des débats (Hansard)*

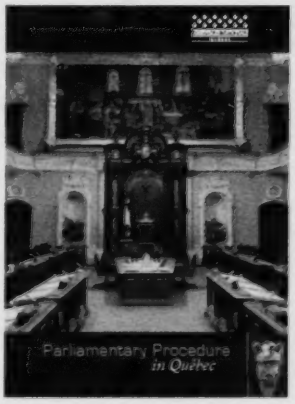
On 14 January 1964, at the opening of the 3rd Session of the 27th Legislature, the first issue of the Journal des débats was published. Initially devoted exclusively to the debates of the Assembly, the full transcript of the standing committee proceedings was added on 19 March 1965.

The 35th anniversary of the broadcasting of debates

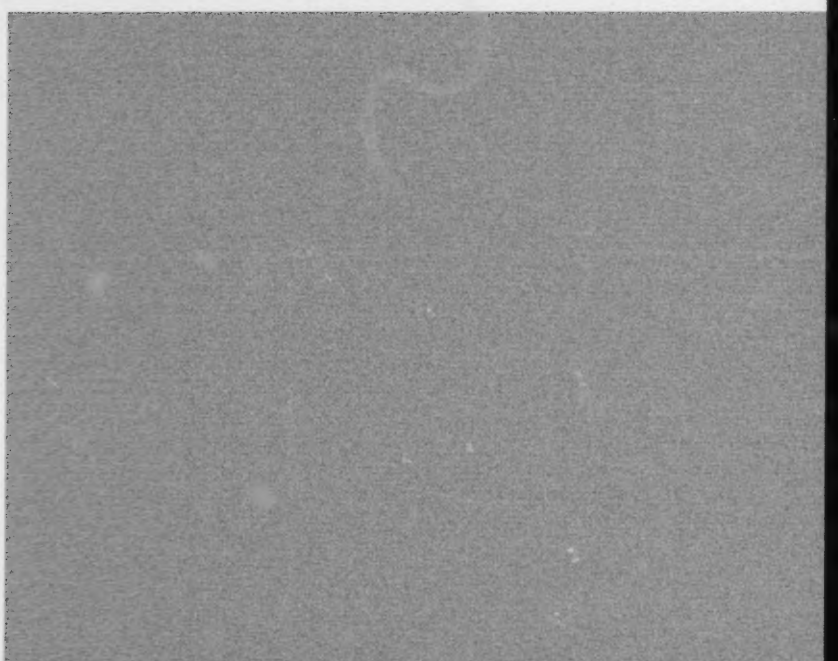
The advent of television cameras in the National Assembly Chamber 35 years ago marked the beginning of the broadcasting of debates. The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, underlined this anniversary on 3 October 2013. To showcase the event, the Assembly Channel broadcast the very first televised Routine Proceedings.

Parliamentary Procedure in Québec

In February 2014, the National Assembly published Parliamentary Procedure in Québec, a translation of the 3rd edition of the book *La procédure parlementaire au Québec*. This first English publication will allow the National Assembly, the only French-speaking legislative assembly in North America, to strengthen its relations with other British-style parliaments. A unique and essential reference work, this book provides detailed information on the functioning of Parliament and the rules of procedure applying thereto.



THE WORK
OF MEMBERS



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mission

The National Assembly of Québec constitutes the foundation of legislative power. It is composed of the Members elected by the population of Québec in each of the 125 electoral divisions. The responsibility for debating and passing bills and the budget lies with the Members. They also debate all matters of public interest, most notably in standing committees. The duration of the collective term of office of these Members, between two general elections, is called a "legislature".

The dissolution of the National Assembly

On 5 March 2014, the Cabinet adopted two orders-in-council on the recommendation of the Premier. The first directed the dissolution of the Québec National Assembly and summoned the new Assembly for 6 May 2014. The second requested that the Chief Electoral Officer hold a general election on 7 April 2014. The Lieutenant-Governor then signed the three royal proclamations giving effect to these orders-in-council, thus ending the 40th Legislature.

Royal proclamations

The Sittings Service of the Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate is responsible for drafting royal proclamations. These proclamations must be in strict conformity with the content of the orders-in-council issued by the Cabinet and must bear the Great Seal of the Province of Québec.

The royal proclamations are first signed by the Secretary General of the Assembly. The Lieutenant-Governor then affixes his signature under the Great Seal.

Finally, a manuscript version of the royal proclamations is drafted for publication in the *Québec Official Gazette*.

CANADA

PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC

PROCLAMATION

Composition of the Assembly

DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS

At the dissolution of the Assembly, on 5 March 2014, the distribution of seats according to political parties represented in the National Assembly was as follows:

Parti Québécois (PQ)	54
Québec Liberal Party (QLP)	49
Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ)	18
Québec solidaire (QS)	2
Independent Members (Ind.)	2

MEMBER PROFILES

The National Assembly is composed of 125 Members with diversified personal backgrounds and career paths. During the 40th Legislature, 41 Members were women, which represents almost one third of the seats, the highest in Québec's history.

The following are some statistics concerning the Members of this Legislature:

AGE	
Average age:	55
Age group between 20 and 39:	7.2 % of the Members
Age group between 40 and 59:	60.8 % of the Members
Age group over 60:	32 % of the Members

EXPERIENCE AS A MEMBER	
Average experience:	7
First experience:	31 % of the Members
Fourth term of office:	26 % of the Members

One-quarter of the Members hailed from the public and parapublic sectors. Another quarter was composed of private sector professionals. Business people, for their part, represented slightly less than 16 % of the Members of the National Assembly.

The main professional subgroups represented among the Members are the following:

PROFESSIONAL SUBGROUP	NUMBER OF PERSONS
Corporate managers	14
Lawyers and notaries	14
Non-profit organization managers	12
Political staff	11
Teachers	8

Regarding academic background, 80 % of Members had university education. The main areas of study were the following:

AREAS OF STUDY	NUMBER OF PERSONS
Administration and management	38
Law	34
Political science	13
Teaching, education, educational sciences	10
Communications and journalism	9

PARLIAMENTARY ANNIVERSARIES

From left to right: Mr. Jacques Chagnon, Ms. Pauline Marois, Mr. Yvon Marcoux, Mmes. Agnès Maltais and Nicole Léger, as well as Messrs. Claude Cousineau, Jean-Marc Fournier and Gérard Deltell.

Five Members of the National Assembly were honoured at a ceremony held in the Legislative Council Chamber on 27 November 2013 to celebrate fifteen years of parliamentary life. They are the Member for Bertrand, Mr. Claude Cousineau, the Member for Chicoutimi, Mr. Stéphane Bédard, the Member for Pointe-aux-Trembles, Ms. Nicole Léger, the Member for Taschereau, Ms. Agnès Maltais, and the Member for Vaudreuil, Mr. Yvon Marcoux.

Furthermore, eleven Members celebrated ten years of parliamentary life at a ceremony held on 29 May 2013. They are the Member for Anjou–Louis-Riel, Ms. Lise Thériault, the Member for Arthabaska, Ms. Sylvie Roy, the Member for Chutes-de-la-Chaudière, Mr. Marc Picard, the Member for Duplessis, Ms. Lorraine Richard, the Member for Lotbinière-Frontenac, Mr. Laurent Lessard, the Member for Louis-Hébert, Mr. Sam Hamad, the Member for Orford, Mr. Pierre Reid, the Member for Pontiac, Ms. Charlotte L'Écuyer, the Member for René-Lévesque, Mr. Marjolain Dufour, the Member for Soulanges, Ms. Lucie Charlebois, and the Member for Taillon, Ms. Marie Malavoy.

CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY

Resignations

Two Members resigned in 2013-2014:

Mr. Emmanuel Dubourg
Electoral Division of Viau

First elected:
26 March 2007

Date of resignation:
9 August 2013

Office at time of resignation: Member

Mr. Raymond Bachand
Electoral Division of Outremont

First elected:
12 December 2005

Date of resignation:
13 September 2013

Office at time of resignation: Member

Changes of political affiliation

Two Members changed political affiliation in 2013-2014:

Mr. Daniel Ratthé
Electoral Division of Blainville

First elected:
8 December 2008

Date of change of political affiliation:
21 May 2013

Status:
From Member of the Coalition Avenir Québec to independent Member

Ms. Fatima Houda-Pepin
Electoral Division of La Pinière

First elected:
12 September 1994

Date of change of political affiliation:
20 January 2014

Status:
From Member of the Québec Liberal Party to independent Member

By-elections

Two by-elections were held during this past fiscal year, on 9 December 2013.

Electoral Division of Outremont

Mr. Philippe Couillard, of the Québec Liberal Party, was elected.

Electoral Division of Viau

Mr. David Heurtel, of the Québec Liberal Party, was elected.

PAULINE MAROIS
Premier
Chef du Gouvernement
Chambly

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

A place for every citizen

Members of the 40th Legislature

as at 5 March 2014

PHILIPPE COUILLARD
Leader of the Official Opposition
Outremont

PIERRE MOREAU
Official Opposition House Leader
Châteauguay

LISE THOMASSET
Deputy Official Opposition House Leader
Anjou–Louis-Riel

JEAN-MARC FOURNIER
Chief Official Opposition Whip
Saint-Laurent

LUCIE CHARLEBOIS
Deputy Official Opposition Whip
Soulanges

GUY OUELLET
Caucus Chair
Jacques-Cartier

PIERRE ARCAND
Mont-Royal

LAWRENCE S. ETHIER
Côte-du-Sud

STÉPHANE BILLETTE
Huntingdon

MARGUERITE BLAIS
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne

GERALD DEAN
Pontiac

YVES BOLDUC
Jean-Talon

JULIE BOULET
Laviolette

MARC CARRIÈRE
Chapleau

FRANÇOISE CHAMPAGNE
Mille-Îles

JEAN D'AMOURS
Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata

RITA DE SANTIS
Bourassa-Sauvé

JEAN-PAUL DUBOIS
Rimouski

ANDRÉ DROLET
Jean-Lesage

NORMAND DUFOUR
Maskinongé

MARTINE GAUDREAULT
Bell

HENRI-FRANÇOIS GAUTRIN
Verdun

SAM HAMAD
Louis-Hébert

DAVID HEURTEL
Vimy

ALEXANDRE IRACÀ
Papineau

YOLANDE JAMES
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

CHARLOTTE L'ECUYER
Pontiac

LAURENT LESSARD
Lotbinière-Frontenac

YVON MARCOUX
Vaudreuil

PIERRE MARSAN
Robert-Baldwin

MELISSE MÉNARD
Laporte

NORMAND MILLIEN
Côte-du-Sud

GUY OUELLETTE
Chambly

GILLES ouellet
Labelle

PIERRE PARADIS
Brome-Missisquoi

ROBERT POETI
Marguerite-Bourgeoys

DENIS REID
Orford

GUILLAUME ROUSSEL
Jeanne-Mance–Viger

JEAN RUEL
Alfred-Pellan

GEORGES SIMAN
Laurier-Dorion

DANIELLE ST-AMAND
Trois-Rivières

CAROLINE ST-HILAIRE
Acadie

MARC TANGUAY
La Pinière

STÉPHANE VALLÉE
Gatineau

EUGÈNE VILLENEUVE
Richmond

DOMINIQUE VIEN
Bellechasse

ÉLISABETH WELT
Mille-Îles–Bois-de-Boulogne

FRANÇOIS LEGAULT
Leader of the Second Opposition Group
L'Assomption

GÉRARD DEltEIL
Second Opposition Group House Leader
Chauveau

FRANÇOIS SIMARD
Whip of the Second Opposition Group
Montmorency

ÉRIC CARE
La Peltrie

HÉLÈNE DANEAULT
Groulx

CHRISTIAN DUBÉ
Lévis

LAURENT DUNOYER
Saint-Hyacinthe

STÉPHANE LE BOUYONNEC
La Prairie

SYLVAIN LÉVESQUE
Vanier-les-Rivières

JACQUES MARIZZETTE
Portneuf

DONALD MARTEL
Nicolet-Bécancour

MARC PICARD
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière

NATHALIE ROY
Montarville

STEVE ROY
Mégantic

SÉBASTIEN SCHNEEBERGER
Drummond–Bois-Francs

ANDRÉ SPÉNARD
Beauce-Nord

MICHELINE C.-ST-LAURENT
Rivière-du-Nord

SONIA THÉRIEN
Orford

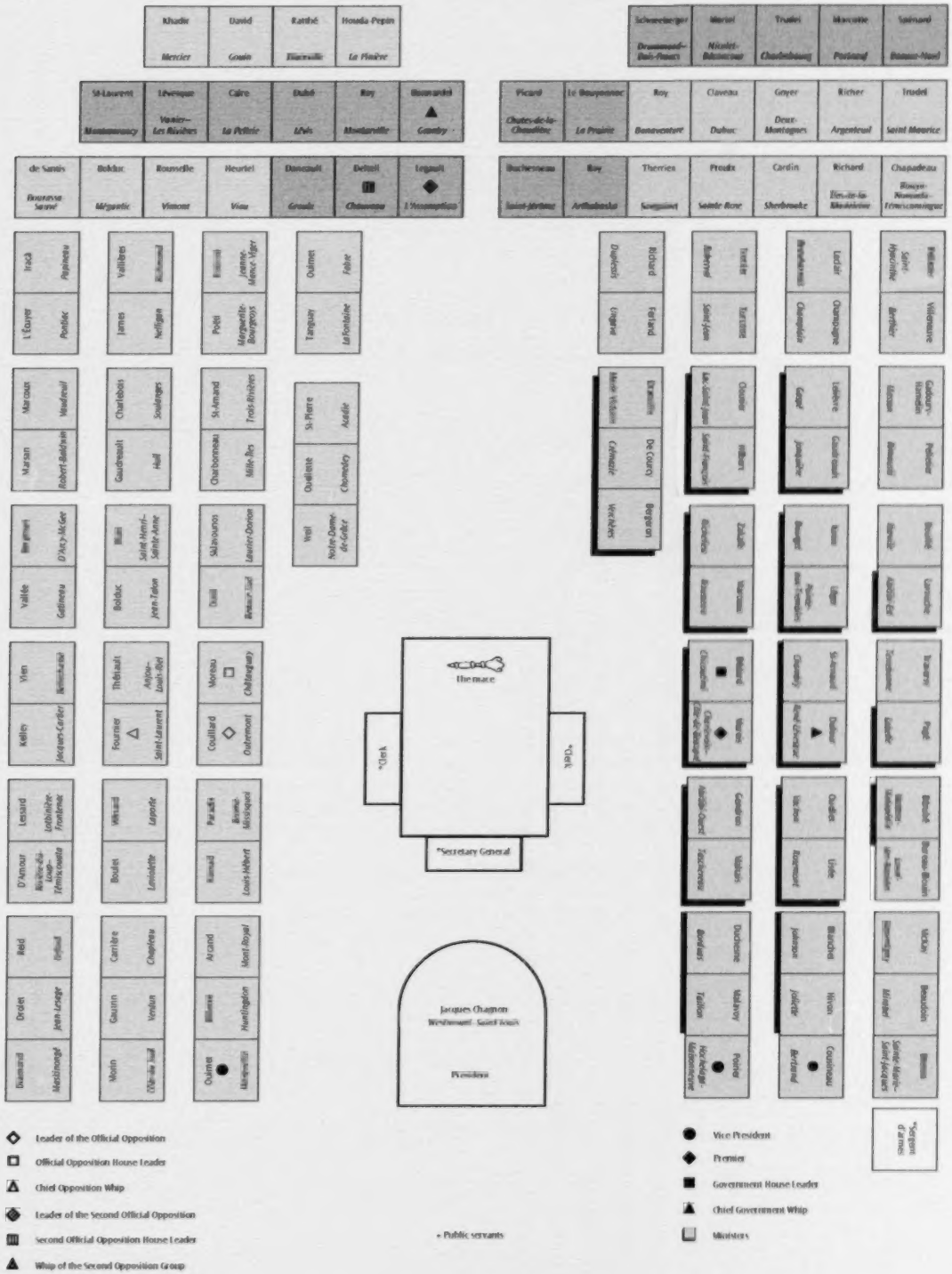
FRANÇOISE DAVID
Gouin

JAMES EVANS
Marguerite

FATIMA HOUDA-PEPIN
La Pinière

ANNA KHALOUF
Nelligan

Seating plan of the National Assembly as at 5 March 2014



Parliamentary work

RULINGS FROM THE CHAIR

The President of the Assembly handed down rulings on two matters of privilege in 2013-2014.

Invoking unadopted legislative provisions

In June 2013, the Chair gave a ruling after having received a notice concerning certain school boards that were inviting parents to register their children for full-time kindergarten for 4-year-olds in September while the bill establishing these kindergarten classes was still under consideration at the Assembly (Bill 23, An Act to amend the Education Act concerning certain educational services for students under five years of age). The notice directed the Chair to conclude that the advertising messages and information disseminated on this subject undermined the authority and dignity of the Assembly and of its Members and asked that the school boards be declared guilty, at first glance, of contempt of Parliament.

The Chair then recalled that acting on legislative provisions still under consideration at the National Assembly may constitute contempt of Parliament. In return, the fact that departments and public agencies want to inform citizens regarding government policies and programs is not objectionable per se, since it is their responsibility to do so. Advertisements and communications of information must however show respect and deference to the National Assembly and its Members. The public must not be under the impression that a foreseen measure has immediate force of law. Under the circumstances, the facts submitted to the Chair led it to conclude that, as regards some of the school boards stated in the notice, the matter of privilege was *prima facie* admissible.

In light of this, the Chair insisted on the importance of showing deference to the Assembly and its Members. It indicated that it was essential to include an explicit reference to the role of the Assembly and its Members in any advertisement or communication of information about a measure provided for in a bill under consideration at the Assembly. Indeed, this information should clear state that the planned measures will be implemented "subject to passage of the bill by the National Assembly".

False or incomplete testimony in committee

The second matter of privilege concerned events that took place in June 2013 during the proceedings of the Committee on Health and Social Services. Notice had been sent to the President indicating a possible breach of privilege or contempt with regard to a witness' statements during special consultations on the management of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal. This notice specifically stated that certain of the witness' assertions were contradicted by information that the Committee had received the day after his hearing.

Giving false or incomplete answers to questions asked by Members constitutes, at first glance, an impediment to the discharge of the Assembly's duties as well as an offence against its authority and dignity.

In this case, the facts presented in support of the matter of privilege could raise questions as to the truthfulness of the testimony in question. The Chair thus ruled that there was a prima facie case of privilege.

The Chair then underlined the importance for committees, when carrying out the orders they receive, to be able to count on the full cooperation of those who take part in their proceedings. Indeed, the witnesses are obliged to tell the truth and give complete explanations.

Work performed at the National Assembly

OVERVIEW OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

In 2013-2014, 75 sittings were held at the National Assembly. For the calendar and schedule of the proceedings of the National Assembly, please visit our website at assnat.qc.ca.

	SITTINGS	HOURS
April 2013	10	51 hr. 39 min.
May	14	80 hr. 42 min.
June	9	48 hr. 25 min.
September	6	30 hr. 40 min.
October	12	61 hr. 46 min.
November	13	63 hr. 20 min.
December	5	31 hr. 30 min.
February 2014	6	36 hr. 27 min.
March	**Dissolution of the Assembly on 5 March 2014**	
TOTAL[1]	**75**	**404 hr. 29 min.**

At the Premier's request, the National Assembly may hold an extraordinary sitting outside the period provided for in the parliamentary calendar. This request is addressed to the President or, in his absence, to the Secretary General.

In 2013-2014, at the request of the Premier, the National Assembly was summoned to extraordinary sittings on two occasions:

- on 30 June, to permit the introduction of a bill respecting the resumption of work in the construction industry, as well as to carry out all of the stages of its consideration;
- on 9 December, to complete the examination of Bill 70, An Act to amend the Mining Act.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

An Assembly sitting consists of two distinct periods, the first being Routine Proceedings. This part is divided into items of business devoted to information provided by the Government to the National Assembly.

[1] These figures cover the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, including two extraordinary sittings on 30 June and 9 December 2013.

0.1 ‖ Statements by Members

This item of business, which signals the beginning of a sitting, is an opportunity for Members, including ministers, to make a one-minute statement on a particular matter. Up to ten Members may make a statement per sitting.

1 ‖ Statements by Ministers

Ministers may make statements to the Assembly on any subject they deem appropriate, such as the announcement of a government policy or the Government's reaction to a particular event.

In 2013-2014, the Premier and two ministers made statements:

- On 16 April, the Premier made a statement about access to all the information concerning the proclamation of the Constitution Act, 1982
- On 21 May, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food made a statement about Québec's food sovereignty policy.
- On 23 October, the Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, the Canadian Francophonie and Sovereignist Governance made a statement about the reaffirmation of the fundamental principles of society and of Québec democracy.

It should be noted that, with the Assembly's consent, motions without notice were moved following the statements by the Premier and the Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, the Canadian Francophonie and Sovereignist Governance. In both cases, the motions were carried unanimously and subsequently forwarded to the Canadian Parliament.

2 ‖ Introduction of Bills

Members do not discuss the content of bills at this point; they simply allow them to be submitted for consideration during subsequent stages of the legislative process. In all, 68 bills were introduced in the National Assembly in 2013-2014.

3 ‖ Presenting papers, reports from committees and petitions

Between 1 April 2013 and 5 March 2014, 1,088 papers were tabled in the National Assembly. They are divided as follows:

Report on a mission	**1**
Replies to written questions placed on the Order Paper	**21**
Reports from the Law Clerk	**10**
Decisions from the Office of the Assembly	**23**
Petitions*	**235**
Replies to petitions*	**126**

* For more information on petitions, see the "Public Participation in Parliamentary Proceedings" section of this report.

Committee reports	**93**
Annual reports (departments and agencies)	**264**
Other documents	**315**

4 ▮ Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

A Member may call attention to any breach of the privileges or immunities of the Assembly or of its Members. With the permission of the President of the Assembly, a Member may also explain a matter that concerns him or her as a Member of the Assembly. For instance, a Member may wish to call attention to inaccuracies contained in the written record of one of his or her speeches, refute allegations made in a publication, or explain remarks that have been misinterpreted.

5 ▮ Oral Questions and Answers (Question Period)

Question Period lasts 45 minutes during which Members may question ministers on any matter that is of public interest. This constitutes one of the means by which Members hold the Government accountable for its actions. Over 50 hours were devoted to Oral Questions and Answers during the year.

The following statistics are based on the parliamentary calendar, not on the fiscal year:

40th Legislature, 1st Session, spring 2013

Number of hours devoted to Oral Questions and Answers: **29 hr. 12 min.**

Number of main questions	**422**
Number of supplementary questions	**761**

40th Legislature, 1st Session, fall 2013

Number of hours devoted to Oral Questions and Answers: **22 hr. 11 min.**

Number of main questions	**311**
Number of supplementary questions	**570**

6 ▮ Deferred Divisions

Votes are taken in the Assembly either by a show of hands or by recorded division. The President may, at the request of the Government House Leader, defer any division until later on the same sitting day. He may likewise defer such division until the Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day thereafter.

7 ▮ Motions Without Notice

This stage of Routine Proceedings is set aside expressly to allow Members to discuss motions that have not first been placed on the Order Paper and Notices.

8 ▮ Notices of Proceedings in Committees

This item of business enables the Government House Leader to communicate to the Assembly details concerning the committee proceedings held in pursuance of an order of reference from the Assembly. The President also informs the Assembly of the notices of proceedings in committees pursuant to an order made on their own initiative.

9 ▮ Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

The last heading under Routine Proceedings allows the Government House Leader, on his own initiative or at the invitation of a Member, to communicate to the Assembly any information on the proceedings of the Assembly. Requests for information must solely concern items of business placed on the Order Paper and Notices. At this stage, the President may also be called upon to give the Assembly information regarding its proceedings.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The second part of a sitting at the National Assembly, the Orders of the Day, is devoted mainly to debates on bills at any stage of consideration. At this time, the National Assembly also takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate. The five items of business for this period are considered in the following order:

1 ▮ Business Having Precedence

As the name indicates, this business takes precedence over all other matters due to its importance or urgency. The opening speech of the session, delivered by the Premier, and the speeches by the leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives during the subsequent debate rank first among business having precedence. Other business having precedence includes the budget speech and want of confidence motions. The budget speech was delivered on 20 February 2014.

2 ▮ Urgent Debates

In pursuance of Standing Orders 88 and following, any Member may ask leave to debate a definite and important matter involving the responsibility of the Assembly that requires urgent consideration and cannot be, or could not have been, otherwise discussed. The Member in asking leave may briefly state the arguments in its favour. The President decides, without debate, whether or not the matter is proper to be discussed. If leave is granted, a two-hour limited debate shall arise on the matter submitted. The debate shall expire without question put. No urgent debates were requested in 2013-2014.

3 ▮ Debates on Reports from Committees

Committee reports that contain recommendations are entered on the Order Paper and Notices the day after they are tabled in the National Assembly and must be taken into consideration within 15 days. In 2013-2014, 16 debates on committee reports containing recommendations were held.

4 ▮ Other Business Standing on the Order Paper

At this time, the National Assembly goes through the various stages of studying bills, notably passage in principle, consideration of reports from committees that have examined bills and the passage of bills.

5 ▮ Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition is taken on Wednesdays from 3.00 to 5.00 p.m., except during any period in which the Assembly has extended hours of meeting. The President decides the sequence in which items placed on the Order Paper by Members in opposition are to be raised.

Nineteen motions were debated during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition in 2013-2014. Thirteen motions were moved by Members of the Official Opposition, five by Members of the Second Opposition Group, and one by an independent Member. Of the 15 motions that were carried, five gave an order to a standing committee.

BILLS PASSED

From 1 April 2013 to 5 March 2014, the National Assembly passed 39 bills:

Government bills	30, including 87 % passed unanimously
Private Members' public bills	None
Private bills	9, all passed unanimously

Work performed in the standing committees

A considerable portion of parliamentary work is carried out in standing committees, where Members exercise their roles as legislators and controllers of the Government's actions. These committees bring together ten Members or so of the various political parties that make up the National Assembly and are responsible for examining any matter under their authority. In committee, the public can express its views during public consultations on bills or important societal issues. In committee, Members also closely examine bills and the Government's estimates of expenditure, as well as monitor the activities of departments and Government agencies. Furthermore, on their own initiative, they may elect to investigate any other matter under their authority.

For the schedule of standing committee sittings, please visit our website at assnat.qc.ca.

OVERVIEW OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT IN COMMITTEES

Importance of clause-by-clause consideration of bills (figures as at 5 March 2014)

The consideration of bills is an essential component of standing committee work. In 2013-2014, the consideration of public bills and private bills represented 63.6 % of the work carried out by Members in committee.

ACTIVITIES IN THE STANDING COMMITTEES	Hours	Percentage
Interpellations	29 hr. 20 min.	2.2 %
Oversight of agencies and accountability	3 hr. 57 min.	0.3 %
Orders carried out by the Committee on Public Administration	64 hr. 26 min.	4.8 %
TOTAL PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL ACTIVITIES (SUBTOTAL)	**97 hr. 43 min.**	**7.2 %**
Consideration of public bills	852 hr. 45 min.	63.1 %
Consideration of private bills	7 hr. 24 min.	0.5 %
Other orders of the Assembly	247 hr. 35 min.	18.3 %
Other in compliance with the Standing Orders	57 hr. 00 min.	4.2 %
Orders of initiative	46 hr. 47 min.	3.5 %
Consideration of petitions	24 hr. 19 min.	1.8 %
General organization and election of chairs and vice-chairs	18 hr. 12 min.	1.3 %
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	**1,351 hr. 45 min.**	**100.0 %**

Number of committee sittings and hours per month

In 2013-2014, the standing committees held 478 sittings for a total of 1,351 hours of work.

MONTH	SITTINGS	HOURS
April	69	174 hr. 52 min.
May	82	194 hr. 32 min.
June	51	144 hr. 03 min.
August	17	82 hr. 59 min.
September	51	146 hr. 08 min.
October	60	163 hr. 43 min.
November	73	214 hr. 45 min.
December	25	66 hr. 50 min.
January	18	84 hr. 21 min.
February	32	79 hr. 32 min.
March	**Dissolution of the Assembly on 5 March 2014**	
Total	**478**	**1,351 hr. 45 min.**

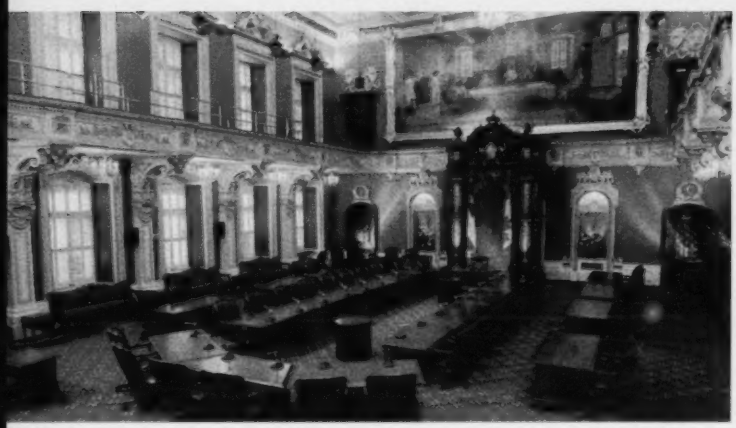
CLAUSE-BY-CLAUSE CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The standing committees examined 26 bills, of which a complete list may be found in appendix. For all of the bills submitted to the standing committees for consideration, 2,393 sections were examined and 827 amendments were adopted out of the 1,023 amendments introduced.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

In 2013-2014, 776 groups and individuals came before the committees to voice their opinions on various matters within the framework of general and special consultations. The standing committees received 1,010 briefs. These consultations enable parliamentarians to properly assess the issues arising from a matter under consideration.

For instance, on 12 November 2013, the Committee on Institutions was tasked with holding a general consultation on Bill 60, Charter affirming the values of State secularism and religious neutrality and of equality between women and men, and providing a framework for accommodation requests. Public hearings within the framework of this order began on 14 January 2014. When the general election was called on 5 March 2014, 69 groups and individuals had expressed their views on this matter to the Committee members.



Among the special consultations held in November and December 2013, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources heard more than 40 individuals and organizations during six days of public hearings to examine the acceptability for Québec of Enbridge Pipelines Inc.'s proposed project, as described in the document entitled "Enbridge's pipeline 9B flow reversal". At the conclusion of its proceedings, the Committee made 18 recommendations in its report tabled on 6 December 2013.

EXAMINATION OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE

Standing Order 282 stipulates that the standing committees shall consider the estimates of expenditure of the Government. The committees did not carry out this order during the past fiscal year, since the examination of the 2013-2014 estimates of expenditure took place in February 2013.

Standing committees

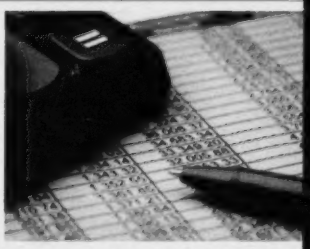
COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Areas of competence: Standing Orders and Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings, coordination of the proceedings of the other committees.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

The President of the National Assembly	Mr. Jacques Chagnon (Westmount—Saint-Louis)
The Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly	Ms. Carole Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) Mr. Claude Cousineau (Bertrand) Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette)
House leaders of the parliamentary groups	Mr. Stéphane Bédard (Chicoutimi) Mr. Pierre Moreau (Châteauguay) Mr. Gérard Deltell (Chauveau)
Whips of the parliamentary groups	Mr. Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque) Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier (Saint-Laurent) Mr. François Bonnardel (Granby)
Committee chairs	
Ms. Marie Bouillé (Iberville) Mr. Lawrence S. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee) Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain) Mr. Luc Ferland (Ungava) Mr. Sam Hamad (Louis-Hébert)	Mr. Laurent Lessard (Lotbinière-Frontenac) Mr. Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil) Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski) Mr. Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Areas of competence: Examination of financial commitments, accountability and hearing of the Auditor General.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Chair:	Mr. Yvon Marcoux (Vaudreuil) QLP
Vice-chairs:	Mr. Serge Cardin (Sherbrooke) PQ Mr. Éric Caire (La Peltrie) CAQ
PQ	**QLP**
Mr. Gilles Chapadeau (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) Mr. Daniel Goyer (Deux-Montagnes) Ms. Suzanne Proulx (Sainte-Rose)	Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage) Mr. Robert Dutil (Beauce-Sud) Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford)

The Committee on Public Administration calls upon public administrators to account on their management. To carry out this mandate, the Committee invites deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies to come before it to answer the questions of parliamentarians on their annual management reports or to discuss the observations contained in the Auditor General's reports.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Committee must also examine all financial commitments equal to or exceeding $25,000 granted to departments and public agencies whose estimates of expenditure are voted on by the Assembly. In scrutinizing these expenditures, the Committee ensures itself of their advisability, the observance of government rules and standards governing the granting of contracts and subsidies and the equitable allocation of public funds.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the Committee on Public Administration tabled two reports on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies:

- The 29th report, tabled in June 2013, summarizes the orders carried out by the Committee during the first half of 2013 and the concerns of its members stated in its 28 recommendations;
- The 30th report, tabled in December 2013, presents an analysis carried out during the second half of the year involving the heads of 16 departments and agencies and contains 35 recommendations.

The Committee's recommendations particularly note the improvements that the members wish to make in the public administration. These improvements concern a multitude of topics, such as professional services contracting for information processing, air quality in elementary schools, the development of sports and physical activity, government interventions in the mining sector, and home services provided to seniors who are losing their autonomy.

To carry out these orders, the Committee on Public Administration holds deliberative meetings and public meetings regularly. For instance, in 2013-2014 it heard:

- the Sustainable Development Commissioner as well as representatives of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs and of the Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire concerning the control and supervision of municipal wastewater treatment and the control and supervision of the production of drinking water;
- representatives of the Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances concerning this agency's management;
- the chief executive officer of the Agence du Revenu du Québec regarding failure to file a return of income with Revenu Québec;
- the executive director of the Corporation Urgences-santé regarding this agency's management;
- the deputy minister of the Ministère des Finances et de l'Économie regarding this department's management.

The orders of the standing committees

Standing committees may carry out four types of orders:

- Orders of reference. When so ordered by the Assembly, the committees examine bills, the estimates of expenditure and any other matter that may be referred to them;
- Statutory orders;
- Orders of initiative. The committees have power to initiate examinations of the following matters: the policy directions, activities, and management of the departments and agencies, petitions, draft regulations and regulations, and any other matter that may be of public interest;
- Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Areas of competence: Agriculture, fisheries, food, energy and natural resources.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Chair:	Ms. Marie Bouillé (Iberville) PQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) QLP
PQ Mr. Daniel Goyer (Deux-Montagnes) Mr. Scott McKay (Repentigny) Mr. Denis Trottier (Roberval) Mr. Luc Trudel (Saint-Maurice)	**QLP** Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon) Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata) Mr. Norbert Morin (Côte-du-Sud) **CAQ** Mr. Donald Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour) **QS** Mr. Amir Khadir (Mercier)

Orders completed or being carried out as at 5 March 2014 by the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation by the Member for Huntingdon to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the following subject:The Parti Québécois Government's inaction with regard to agriculture in Québec

Interpellation by the Member for Brome-Missisquoi to the Minister of Natural Resources on the following subject:The fiasco of the Parti Québécois governance as regards natural resources

Orders of reference

Government bills	
2 special consultations	1 clause-by-clause consideration

Special consultations and public hearings to examine the acceptability, for Québec, of the project proposed by Enbridge Pipelines Inc. to reverse the flow of Pipeline 9B eastward between North Westover and Montréal described in particular in the document entitled "Inversion du flux de l'oléoduc 9B d'Enbridge".

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Areas of competence: Land use planning and development, municipal affairs, housing, sports and recreation, local and regional community development.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Chair:	Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain) PQ
Vice-chair:	Ms. Julie Boulet (Laviolette) QLP
PQ Mr. Daniel Breton (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) Ms. Diane Gadoury-Hamelin (Masson) Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier)	**QLP** Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau) Mr. Jean Rousselle (Vimont) Ms. Karine Vallières (Richmond) **CAQ** Mr. André Spénard (Beauce-Nord)

Orders completed or being carried out as at 5 March 2014 by the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

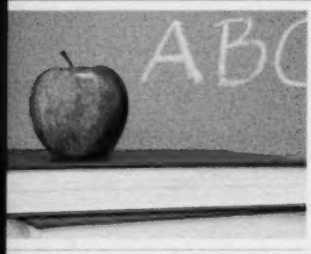
Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation by the Member for Mont-Royal to the Minister responsible for the Montréal region on the following subject:The lack of Parti Québécois leadership with regard to issues pertaining to Greater Montréal

Orders of reference

Government bills	
3 special consultations	4 clause-by-clause considerations
Private bills:	
9 considerations of bills	

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION



Areas of competence: Culture, education, vocational training, higher education and communications.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Chair:	Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis) PQ
Vice-chair:	Ms. Christine St-Pierre (Acadie) QLP
PQ Mr. Daniel Breton (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques) Mr. Émilien Pelletier (Saint-Hyacinthe) Mr. Sylvain Roy (Bonaventure)	**QLP** Ms. Francine Charbonneau (Mille-Îles) Mr. Alexandre Iracà (Papineau) Mr. Marc Tanguay (LaFontaine) **CAQ** Ms. Nathalie Roy (Montarville)

Orders completed or being carried out as at 5 March 2014 by the Committee on Culture and Education

Orders of reference

Government bill		
1 general consultation	2 special consultations	3 clause-by-clause considerations

Special consultations on the consultation paper on the regulation of retail prices of new printed and digital books

Statutory order

Hearing of the head officers of educational institutions at the university level

Order of initiative

Examination of the 2012-2016 strategic plan and examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Société de télédiffusion du Québec (Télé-Québec)

Interpellations (provided for in the Standing Orders)

Every Member sitting in opposition may interpellate a minister on a matter of general interest for which he is officially responsible. In 2013-2014, Government's ministers were interpellated 15 times in the standing committees. Each interpellation was held at a meeting of the appropriate committee, on Friday morning, from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock noon.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Areas of competence: Industry, trade, tourism, labour, manpower, science, technology and income security.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Chair:	Mr. Sam Hamad (Louis-Hébert) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Guy Leclair (Beauharnois) PQ
PQ	**QLP**
Mr. Jean-Marie Claveau (Dubuc) Mr. Alain Therrien (Sanguinet) Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier)	Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau) Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey) Ms. Kathleen Weil (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) **CAQ** Mr. Stéphane Le Bouyonnec (La Prairie)

Orders completed or being carried out as at 5 March 2014 by the Committee on Labour and the Economy

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation by the Member for Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata to the Minister for Industrial Policy and the Banque de développement économique du Québec on the following subject: The Parti Québécois Government's failure as regards regional economic development

Interpellation by the Member for Chomedey to the Minister of Labour on the following subject: The Parti Québécois Government's laissez-faire policy regarding labour

Orders of reference

Government bill
1 special consultation

Hearing concerning the inappropriate use of public funds by Tourisme Montréal

Statutory order

Hearing with the chief executive officer of the Conseil de gestion de l'assurance parentale concerning her management of the Fonds and her administrative management, and examination of the report on the implementation of the Parental Insurance Act

Order of initiative

Examination of a petition on the increase in welfare assistance benefits given to disabled persons

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Areas of competence: Finance, the budget, government administration, the public service, revenue, services, supply and pension plans.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Chair:	Mr. Irvin Pelletier (Rimouski) PQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Henri-François Gautrin (Verdun) QLP
PQ	**QLP**
Mr. Gilles Chapadeau (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue) Mr. Jean-Marie Claveau (Dubuc) Mr. Alain Therrien (Sanguinet)	Mr. Pierre Arcand (Mont-Royal) Ms. Nicole Ménard (Laporte) Mr. Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi) **CAQ** Mr. Christian Dubé (Lévis)

Orders completed or being carried out as at 5 March 2014 by the Committee on Public Finance

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation by the Member for Lévis to the Chair of the Conseil du trésor on the following subject: The Government's mismanagement of public expenditure

Interpellation by the Member for Brome-Missisquoi to the Minister of Finance and the Economy on the following subject: The Parti Québécois Government's disastrous results with regard to public finance management

Interpellation by the Member for La Peltrie to the Minister responsible for Government Administration and Chair of the Conseil du trésor on the following subject:The Government's management of infrastructure projects

Interpellation by the Member for Outremont to the Minister of Finance and the Economy on the following subject: Assessing the consequences of the reduction in State revenues under the Parti Québécois Government

Interpellation by the Member for La Prairie to the Minister of Finance and the Economy on the following subject: The drop in private investments announced in Québec since the election of the Parti Québécois

Quarterly examination of the Government›s budgetary policy and of the evolution of public finance. (June and November 2013)

Orders of reference

Government bills	
4 special consultations	7 clause-by-clause considerations

Shed light on the circumstances surrounding the investment in July 2008 by the FTQ Solidarity Fund in Capital BLF and, for this purpose, hear the Premier, the former president and chief executive officer of Capital BLF, Mr. Claude Blanchet, as well as any person the Committee may deem necessary to summon

Hearing with the Auditor General of Québec regarding his desire to implement the order given by the National Assembly on 24 September 2013, following the adoption of a motion instructing him to analyze the economic update that will be presented by the Minister of Finance and the Economy in respect of 2013-2014

Hearing with the chief executive officer and the president of the board of directors of the Fonds de solidarité FTQ on measures to improve its governance, more particularly the changes introduced in 2009, and the Autorité des marchés financiers

Special consultations in reference to the report "Innovating for a Sustainable Retirement System" (D'Amours Report)

Orders of reference

In 2013-2014, several motions carried by the National Assembly gave rise to numerous matters being referred to the committees. Though these motions are usually moved by the parliamentary group forming the Government, in the past year, the opposition parties availed themselves of this option to ensure the discussion of current interest issues.

Statutory orders

Certain orders carried out by the standing committees stem from a statute. Others derive from a Standing Order of the National Assembly. For instance, it is within the framework of the *Act respecting educational institutions at the university level* that the Committee on Culture and Education hears the deans of universities

Orders of initiative

Committees may take the initiative to examine draft regulations and regulations, policy directions, the activities and management of public agencies and departments, petitions and any other matter of public interest. For instance, during the past year, the Committee on Health and Social Services carried out an order of initiative on the living conditions of adults staying in long-term care centres.

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Areas of competence: Chairmanship of the Conseil exécutif, justice, public security, the Constitution, aboriginal affairs, international and intergovernmental relations.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Chair:	Mr. Luc Ferland (Ungava) PQ
Vice-chair:	Ms. Dominique Vien (Bellechasse) QLP
PQ Ms. Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel) Mr. Serge Cardin (Sherbrooke) Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain) Mr. Guy Leclair (Beauharnois)	**QLP** Ms. Rita de Santis (Bourassa-Sauvé) Mr. Gilles Ouimet (Fabre) Mr. Marc Tanguay (LaFontaine) **CAQ** Mr. Jacques Duchesneau (Saint-Jérôme) **IND.** Mr. Daniel Ratthé (Blainville)

Orders completed or being carried out as at 5 March 2014 by the Committee on Institutions

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation by the Member for Fabre to the Minister of Justice on the following subject: The Parti Québécois Government's refusal to release all of the legal opinions concerning the Government's policy directions with regard to its Charter of Québec Values

Interpellation by the Member for Marguerite-Bourgeoys to the Minister of Public Security on the following subject: The Parti Québécois Government's lack of foresight in the face of the flagrant issues related to prison overcrowding, internal management and security in Québec's detention centres

Orders of reference

Government bills		
4 special consultations	7 clause-by-clause considerations	8 clause-by-clause considerations

Hearing with the Minister of Justice concerning the comments of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse made public on 17 October 2013 on the Government's policy directions regarding the proposed charter of Québec values as well as on the unconstitutionality of the Government's proposal

General consultation and public hearings on the report "Technologies et vie privée à l'heure des choix de société"

Order of initiative

Examination of the report "Proposed Amendments to the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act," the activity reports from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012 as well as the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Lobbyists Commissioner of Québec

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Areas of competence: Citizen relations, cultural communities, immigration, status of women, the family, seniors, youth and consumer protection.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Chair:	Mr. Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) CAQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Émilien Pelletier (Saint-Hyacinthe) PQ
PQ Mr. Léo Bureau-Blouin (Laval-des-Rapides) Ms. Noëlla Champagne (Champlain) Mr. Roland Richer (Argenteuil)	**QLP** Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull) Mr. Robert Poëti (Marguerite-Bourgeoys) Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger) Ms. Danielle Saint-Amand (Trois-Rivières)

Orders completed or being carried out as at 5 March 2014 by the Committee on Citizen Relations

Order of initiative

Examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Public Curator

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Areas of competence: Health, social and community services.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Chair:	Mr. Lawrence S. Bergman (D'Arcy-McGee) QLP
Vice-chair:	Ms. Suzanne Proulx (Sainte-Rose) PQ
PQ Ms. Diane Gadoury-Hamelin (Masson) Ms. Jeannine Richard (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) Mr. Roland Richer (Argenteuil) Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier)	**QLP** Ms. Marguerite Blais (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) Mr. Yves Bolduc (Jean-Talon) Ms. Stéphanie Vallée (Gatineau) **CAQ** Ms. Hélène Daneault (Groulx) **QS** Ms. Françoise David (Gouin)

Orders completed or being carried out as at 5 March 2014 by the Committee on Health and Social Services

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation by the Member for Jean-Talon to the Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister responsible for Seniors on the following subject: The autonomy insurance project of the Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister responsible for Seniors

Interpellation by the Member for Jean-Talon to the Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister responsible for Seniors on the following subject: The Parti Québécois Government's inability to provide a financial framework with regard to funding autonomy insurance

Orders of reference

Government bills	
3 special consultations	3 clause-by-clause considerations

Special consultations on the White Paper on the creation of an autonomy insurance entitled "L'autonomie pour tous"

Special consultations concerning the management of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal by the current director general

Special consultations on the draft rules repealing the provision that prohibits the sale, service and consumption of alcoholic beverages inside gaming areas

Statutory orders

Examination of the report on the implementation of the *Tobacco Act*

Orders of initiative

The living conditions of adults staying in long-term care centres

Examination of a petition concerning a law authorizing people with disabilities to always be accompanied by their service dog

Examination of a petition concerning the fluoridation of drinking water

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Areas of competence: Transportation, the environment, wildlife and parks.

Members at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Chair:	Mr. Laurent Lessard (Lotbinière-Frontenac) QLP
Vice-chair:	Ms. Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel) PQ
PQ Mr. Scott McKay (Repentigny) Ms. Jeannine Richard (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) Mr. Sylvain Roy (Bonaventure)	**QLP** Mr. Ghislain Bolduc (Mégantic) Mr. David Heurtel (Viau) Mr. Gerry Sklavounos (Laurier-Dorion) **CAQ** Mr. Jacques Marcotte (Portneuf)

Orders completed or being carried out as at 5 March 2014 by the Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

Interpellation by the Member for Mercier to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks on the following subject: The environmental issues related to the Québec Government's oil policy

Order of reference

Government bills
1 special consultation

Shed light on the events of last 24 October concerning the action taken by the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks with regard to the independent public body known as the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION PAPERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

In 2013-2014, the standing committees produced 19 reports and discussion papers that were tabled in the National Assembly. The following is a list of all of those reports containing observations, conclusions and/or recommendations, and which are available on the National Assembly's website.

Orders of reference

COMMITTEE	TITLE OF DOCUMENT
Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources	Examination of the acceptability, for Québec, of the project proposed by Enbridge Pipelines Inc. to reverse the flow of Pipeline 9B eastward between North Westover and Montréal described in particular in the document entitled "Inversion du flux de l'oléoduc 9B d'Enbridge"
Economy and Labour	The inappropriate use of public funds by Tourisme Montréal
Culture and Education	Special consultations and public hearings on the entitled "Consultation paper on the regulation of retail prices of new printed and digital books"
Public Finance	Hearing with the chief executive officer and the president of the board of directors of the Fonds de solidarité FTQ on measures to improve its governance, more particularly the changes introduced in 2009, and the Autorité des marchés financiers
Public Finance	Hearing with the Auditor General of Québec regarding his desire to implement the order given by the National Assembly on 24 September 2013, following the adoption of a motion instructing him to analyze the economic update that will be presented by the Minister of Finance and the Economy in respect of 2013-2014
Public Finance	Special consultations in reference to the report "Innovating for a Sustainable Retirement System" (D'Amours Report)
Institutions	Hearing with the Minister of Justice concerning the comments of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse made public on 17 October 2013 on the Government's policy directions regarding the proposed charter of Québec values as well as on the unconstitutionality of the Government's proposal
Health and Social Services	Special consultations on the draft rules repealing the provision that prohibits the sale, service and consumption of alcoholic beverages inside gaming areas
Health and Social Services	Special consultations and public hearings concerning the management of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal by the current director general

Statutory orders

COMMITTEE	TITLE OF DOCUMENT
Health and Social Services	Special consultations and public hearings on the statutory order in pursuance of section 77 of the *Tobacco Act* concerning the examination of the report on the implementation of the *Tobacco Act 2005-2010*
Health and Social Services	Examination of the annual management reports of the Bas-Saint-Laurent, Mauricie et Centre-du-Québec, Chaudière-Appalaches, Estrie and Outaouais health and social services agencies from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012 and of the Capitale-Nationale from 2009-2010 to 2011-2012

Order in compliance with the Standing Orders

COMMITTEE	TITLE OF DOCUMENT
Public Finance	Quarterly examination of the Government's budgetary policy and of the evolution of public finance

Orders carried out by the Committee on Public Administration

COMMITTEE	TITLE OF DOCUMENT
Public Administration	Twenty-ninth report on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies
Public Administration	Thirtieth report on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies

Orders of initiative

COMMITTEE	TITLE OF DOCUMENT
Culture and Education	Examination of the 2012-2016 strategic plan and the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Société de télédiffusion du Québec (Télé-Québec)
Economy and Labour	Examination of petitions concerning the increase in welfare benefits paid to disabled persons
Institutions	Examination of the report entitled "Proposed Amendments to the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act"
Health and Social Services	Examination of a petition concerning a law authorizing people with disabilities to always be accompanied by their service dog
Health and Social Services	Examination of a petition concerning the fluoridation of drinking water

Examination of petitions

Each year, a large number of petitions are tabled in the National Assembly. An abstract of each of these petitions is forwarded to the members of the committees concerned by the topic. When a Member makes such a request, the Committee responsible therefor holds a deliberative meeting to decide whether it wishes to examine the petition. In the past year, three petitions were examined. These examinations gave rise to reports containing recommendations.

TEMPORARY CHAIR

A temporary chair is a Member appointed by the President of the Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chair or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. The Committee on the National Assembly approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity.

Following is the list of temporary chairs at dissolution, on 5 March 2014:

Parliamentary group forming the Government

BRETON, Daniel (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques)

CLAVEAU, Jean-Marie (Dubuc)

GADOURY-HAMELIN, Diane (Masson)

RICHARD, Jeannine (Îles-de-la-Madeleine)

TROTTIER, Denis (Roberval)

TRUDEL, Luc (Saint-Maurice)

Parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition

JAMES, Yolande (Nelligan)

MORIN, Norbert (Côte-du-Sud)

OUELLETTE, Guy (Chomedey)

REID, Pierre (Orford)

SKLAVOUNOS, Gerry (Laurier-Dorion)

VALLÉE, Stéphanie (Gatineau)

Parliamentary group forming the Second Opposition Group

LÉVESQUE, Sylvain (Vanier-Les Rivières)

MARTEL, Donald (Nicolet-Bécancour)

PERSONS APPOINTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Five persons are appointed to public office by the Assembly, a procedure which helps ensure that they remain independent and impartial in the performance of their duties. These persons, who are accountable to the National Assembly, are the Ethics Commissioner, the Lobbyists Commissioner, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Public Protector and the Auditor General.

The **Ethics Commissioner** is responsible for the administration of the Code of ethics and conduct of the Members of the National Assembly. He provides Members with advisory opinions containing any recommendations on any matter concerning Members' obligations under the Code. He conducts inquiries, on his own initiative or in response to a request from a Member, to determine whether the Code may have been violated by a Member or a Minister, and reports to the Assembly. Within three years after the coming into force of the Code and every five years thereafter, he must report on the carrying out of the Code and the advisability of amending it. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term office.

COMMISSAIRE À L'ÉTHIQUE ET À LA DÉONTOLOGIE

The **Lobbyists Commissioner** is tasked with monitoring and controlling the lobbying of holders of public office. The Commissioner develops a code of conduct for lobbyists and conducts investigations and examinations of all violations of the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act or the code of conduct. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term.

COMMISSAIRE AU LOBBYISME DU QUÉBEC

The **Chief Electoral Officer** oversees the application of the Election Act, the Referendum Act and part of the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities and also chairs the Commission de la représentation électorale, which is charged with drawing up Québec's electoral boundaries. The Chief Electoral Officer must be chosen from among the electors. He is appointed for a seven-year renewable term.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL DES ÉLECTIONS DU QUÉBEC

The **Public Protector** prevents and corrects errors or injustices committed against any individual or group of individuals in connection with a Québec government ministry or agency. He also intervenes in cases where citizens feel their rights have been breached or ignored by an establishment in the health and social services network. He is appointed for a five-year renewable term.

LE PROTECTEUR DU CITOYEN
Assemblée nationale
Québec

The **Auditor General** fosters, through audit, parliamentary control over public funds and other public property, and informs Members on how the Government and its agencies and enterprises manage public funds. He is appointed for ten years.

VÉRIFICATEUR GÉNÉRAL DU QUÉBEC

Parliamentary diplomacy

The National Assembly of Québec has diplomatic relations with other parliaments and various interparliamentary organizations. Based on the separation of powers, it conducts its international relations independently.

The purpose of the Assembly's participation in interparliamentary relations activities is to:

- reinforce the effectiveness of the institution and elected officials in their duties;
- improve the position of the Assembly on the international scene;
- actively participate in building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity;
- promoting Québec society's sectors of excellence.

Multilateral relations

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE FRANCOPHONIE (APF)

APF - Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie): Founded in 1967, composed of members from 79 parliaments and interparliamentary organizations on the five continents (National Assembly of Québec: full member since 1975).

The National Assembly plays a very active role within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF) and participates in all of its annual meetings as well as in the work of its four standing committees. During the past year, the President of the National Assembly notably continued his work towards promoting the French language and the diversity of cultural expressions, developing interparliamentary cooperation, and consolidating peace, democracy and human rights in the French-speaking world.

It is within this context that a delegation of the National Assembly took part in the 39th Session of the APF, which was held in Abidjan (Ivory Coast), from 7 to 13 July 2013. This Session provided an opportunity for the members of the Québec delegation to make a practical contribution to promoting Québec's perspective on the priority issues of the multilateral Francophonie. For instance, within the framework of the general debate on parliaments at the core of nation-building, they discussed the major debates that shaped Québec as well as the National Assembly's actions with regard to interparliamentary cooperation with French-speaking parliaments.

The 29th Session of the APF's Regional Assembly of the America Region.

From 19 to 22 August 2013, the National Assembly hosted the 29th Session of the Assemblée régionale Amérique of the APF, which brought together some fifty parliamentarians. The main theme of the meeting focussed on the impact of immigration on the state and status of French in the provinces and member

States of the Americas Region of the APF. This annual meeting was preceded, in April 2013, by the Conference of Presidents of the Americas Section, which took place via videoconference for the very first time.

Furthermore, the National Assembly hosted the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the APF, on the occasion of its intersessional meeting, on 19 and 20 January 2014. It thus welcomed more than thirty parliamentarians hailing from the French-speaking world, who discussed themes such as the promotion of women in politics and the education of girls. The Network's meeting was followed by the interparliamentary seminar for the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in which the French-speaking women took part.

A Member of the Québec Section also represented the APF at UNESCO's 7th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, held in Paris, from 8 to 14 December 2013.

Lastly, a woman Member of the National Assembly participated in an information and discussion seminar of the Network of Women Parliamentarians, which was held in Brussels (Belgium) on 9 and 10 December 2013. She made a presentation on the laws and programs implemented in Québec to increase the number of women in political and economic decision-making positions.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

CPA - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Founded in 1911, composed of some 180 parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from the countries forming the Commonwealth (National Assembly: full member since 1933)

The President of the National Assembly, accompanied by four parliamentarians, took part in the 59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, from 28 August to 6 September 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Workshops were organized on good governance, the use of new technologies, etc. Québec's women Members in attendance also participated in the working sessions of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, which focussed on the various issues linked to equality between men and women. Finally, the parliamentarians exchanged views with representatives of parliaments from all regions of the Commonwealth.

Furthermore, two parliamentarians took part in the 51st CPA Canadian Regional Conference, in Edmonton, from 14 to 20 July 2013. During one of the workshops, they discussed technology and the impact of new media on parliamentary proceedings and one of the Québec women Members gave a presentation on the National Assembly's adaptation to these technologies.

Also, in January 2014, the President, two Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General attended the 31st Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference, in Ottawa. Various topics of interest to the Chair as well as parliamentary procedure were discussed. Moreover, the

President delivered a speech during the workshop entitled "Issues concerning legislative assembly security – threats, challenges and solutions". This gave him the opportunity to share the National Assembly's experience on the issue of security in parliaments with his counterparts.

It should also be noted that one of the National Assembly's Vice-Presidents attended the 35th CPA Canadian Regional Seminar on 1 and 2 November 2013. He took part in the discussions on the disclosure of Members' expenditures as well as on the use of social media.

PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS

COPA - Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas: Created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional parliaments and the inter-parliamentary organizations of the Americas.

From November 2010 to October 2013, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) was chaired by the President of the Québec National Assembly. This term of office ended after the 12th General Assembly held in Brasilia, Brazil, from 13 to 16 October 2013. The President left the chair to the First Vice-President of the organization, Paraguayan Senator Zulma Gómez Cáceres. However, the President remains a member of COPA's executive committee, just as three of his fellow Members of the National Assembly. For her part, the Québec Member sitting on the executive committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas renewed her term of office.

The General Assembly of Brasilia strengthened COPA's ties with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), more specifically within the context of discussions on the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations conducted at the United Nations Conference in spring 2013. It should be noted that a Québec Member led these discussions within COPA.

Furthermore, a Québec woman Member was responsible for the adoption of a resolution on the fight against school dropout and on school re-entry, in addition to presenting a preliminary report on school re-entry and adult education.

The President of the National Assembly thanks the parliamentarians of the Americas for their support during his term of office as chair of COPA (2010-2013)

Also, the Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, whose secretariat is housed at the National Assembly, was also held in Brasilia. The Network's Québec representative tabled a report on the theme "Poverty, pay equity and economic empowerment of women", prepared with the Costa Rica and Santa Fe (Argentina) Sections. Additionally, a consultation on the legislative priorities as regards women's rights and gender equality was organized by the Network, in partnership with the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States.

Moreover, a National Assembly representative led an electoral observation mission to Paraguay, under the auspices of COPA. In total, 17 parliamentarians of the Americas were deployed to observe the election of 21 April 2013 aiming particularly to elect a new Paraguayan president and to renew the country's Congress. The observers found that the electoral process on polling day was conducted in an acceptable manner and in general conformity with the regulations in force. They issued recommendations on, among other things, physical space, quality and disposition of election material in the voting stations, access to these areas and the training of election officers. It is important to note that this mission was conducted in the particular context of the political crisis that shook Paraguay following the impeachment of its President by the Congress, in June 2012. This was the 14th electoral observation mission of COPA since the program's creation, in 2005.

Interparliamentary seminar on the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: a first in the history of networks of women parliamentarians

At the Presiden's invitation, the National Assembly hosted, on 21 and 22 January 2014, an interparliamentary seminar for the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Close to 80 women parliamentarians of the Francophonie, the Americas and the Commonwealth networks as well as representatives of the Interparliamentary Union and the National Conference of State Legislatures took part therein. The Seminar's objectives were to provide an opportunity for the women to be informed of the issues pertaining to the implementation of the Platform for Action and to mobilize them for the 59th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, scheduled for March 2015. A global assessment report on the results observed twenty years after the adoption of this fundamental text for the advancement of women's rights will be tabled at that time. Seminar participants discussed three themes covering the essential elements of the Platform for Action, namely violence against women, the economic empowerment of women, and women's access to political and economic decision-making processes. The contributions of parliamentarians to these themes were enriched through the presentations of experts hailing from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, Laval University and the National Democratic Institute.

At the end of the Seminar, participants adopted a Declaration renewing their commitment to continue their actions for women within their respective parliaments. This Declaration also invites all women parliamentarians within these networks to play an active role in reviewing the Platform for Action that has been established worldwide in preparation for 2015. It was the first time that three networks of women parliamentarians of which Québec is a member thus met to share their experiences and define common strategies.

Women's rights are at the core of the Beijing Platform for Action.

CSG - Council of State Governments: Organization created in 1933, composed of representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial powers from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 1995).

ERC/CSG - Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments: Organization that constitutes the Eastern Chapter of the CSG and is composed of parliamentarians and governmental representatives from the Northeastern United States as well as five Canadian member provinces (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 1990).

NCSL - National Conference of State Legislatures: American interparliamentary organization founded in 1975, composed of parliamentarians and public servants of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 2000).

In 2013-2014, the National Assembly continued its efforts to promote and defend the interests of Québec in the influential forums provided by the major interparliamentary organizations of the United States. Hence, parliamentarians took part in a dozen activities bringing together legislators of the American States, seizing these opportunities to present Québec's perspective and efforts, particularly as regards trade negotiations and climate change.

Québec's strategy on climate change was first discussed at the meeting of the Task Force on Energy Supply of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) held in Atlanta (Georgia), in mid-August 2013. The National Assembly delegation presented Québec's cap and trade system for greenhouse gases, which California has also endorsed. This presentation raised a high degree of interest amongst the American parliamentarians, who chose to examine more closely the functioning of the carbon market at the 2014 Annual Assembly in Minneapolis (Minnesota).

At the National Assembly's initiative, Québec's carbon market was also placed on the agenda of the Energy and Environment Committee of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC/CSG), which held its 53rd Annual Meeting, in Fajardo (Puerto Rico), from 5 to 9 December 2013.

Furthermore, a Québec parliamentarian co-chaired the Canada-US Relations Committee, which asked for the expeditious implementation of pre-clearance projects provided for in the action plan "Beyond the Border: a shared vision for perimeter security and economic competitiveness".

The Council of State Governments (CSG), for its part, held its National Conference in Kansas City (Missouri), from 19 to 22 September 2013. The National Assembly actively participated in the meeting of the CSG's International Relations Committee. As had been suggested by the Québec delegation, work focussed particularly on the role of the Federated States in international trade negotiations. Hence, on the National Assembly's initiative, the Québec delegate in Chicago made a presentation on Québec's perspective on trade negotiations.

BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PARTNER PARLIAMENTS AND WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Date and place	Activity	Theme
15 to 20 April 2013 (Québec City)	23rd Session of the National Assembly of Québec / Parliament of the Federation of Wallonia-Brussels Joint Committee	- Use of social media by parliaments - Higher education (financing and access) - Health impact assessment of public policies
9 to 11 May 2013 (Toronto)	19th General Assembly of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association	- Prospects for the future of the transport sector - The electricity market: impact on the economy and the manufacturing industry - Political and parliamentary news in Ontario and Québec
20 to 25 May 2013 (Québec City)	7th Session of the National Assembly of Québec / Walloon Parliament Joint Committee	- Immigration and the integration of immigrants - The key challenges of urban sprawl and the measures to regulate it - Rural-urban complementarity and regional economic development - Political and parliamentary news in Québec and Wallonia
26 June to 2 July 2013 (Paris)	8th Annual meeting of the National Assembly of Québec / Senate of the French Republic	- Heritage conservation - Rural areas of excellence - Vocational training
27 to 29 September 2013 (Fredericton)	4th Session of the New Brunswick–Québec Parliamentary Association	- New Brunswick and Québec's energy challenges over the next 20 years - The inter-provincial designation of Restigouche River - Political news in New Brunswick and Québec
20 to 22 October 2013 (Brussels)	17th Plenary Session of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies	- E-democracy - Regional democracy - Rural development - Financial federalism - Subsidiarity - Equality and equal gender opportunities
10 to 14 February 2014 (Brussels)	Mission to European institutions	- Immigration and the integration of immigrants - Energy policies: the wood sector - Corruption and tax evasion

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

For over fifteen years, the National Assembly has been sharing its expertise with partner parliaments on the occasion of interparliamentary cooperation activities. In so doing, the Assembly seeks to help build a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity. Interparliamentary cooperation directly supports this progress by providing specialized expertise with regard to parliamentary procedures and duties and administrative support to assemblies. The countries that are targeted for this cooperation are mainly the Francophone States in the process of democratic consolidation or emerging from crisis. The National Assembly is directly involved, with the support of fund providers or in collaboration with multilateral partners, such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF).

A dozen public servants from the Haitian Senate took part in a training program and met the President of the National Assembly.

In 2013, the National Assembly committed to supporting Côte d'Ivoire, through the Initiative multilatérale de coopération interparlementaire francophone (IMCIF), which is coordinated out of the APF. The National Assembly contributed to five activities held in Côte d'Ivoire, namely three support missions and two professional development seminars. These interventions helped, among other things, to reconstruct the Ivorian Parliament's archives and library, to strengthen the capacity of 70 parliamentary officials and to train 255 Members. Furthermore, the National Assembly organized a study mission in Québec City for the administrative authorities of the Ivorian National Assembly. It also ensured the forwarding of a wealth of technical information in areas such as human resources management, parliamentary procedure and communications.

It should also be noted that the National Assembly supported the Parliament of the Republic of Haiti by offering a training program to a dozen public servants from the Senate of Haiti on the management and operation of parliaments. Moreover, in November, a woman Member of the National Assembly attended an APF multilateral seminar in Port-au-Prince on the topic of government action oversight.

Finally, in June 2013, in Rabat, the very first session of the Bilateral Commission uniting the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco and the National Assembly was held. The purpose of the Commission is to reinforce the capacities of the Moroccan parliamentary institution through exchanges between parliamentarians and administrative cooperation activities. The second session of the Commission, which was held in Québec City in February 2014, focussed on the processing of petitions and the training of newly elected parliamentarians.

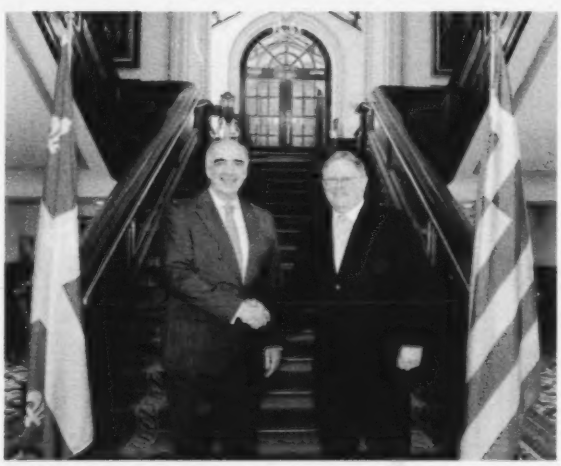
MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND HIS COUNTERPARTS

Over the past year, the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, has met with several of his counterparts. These official meetings, in addition to making known the National Assembly and its operation, reinforce Québec's parliamentary network abroad.

List of persons met:

- The Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr. Evangelos Meimarakis
- The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Mr. Dave Levac
- The President of the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Guillaume K. Soro
- The President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Karim Ghellab
- The President of the Assembly of Counselors of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah
- The President of the National Assembly of Benin, Mr. Mathurin Coffi Nago
- The President of the National Assembly of Cameroon, Mr. Djibril Cavaye Yeguie
- The President of the Senate of Cameroon, Mr. Marcel Niat Njifenji
- The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, Mr. Dale Graham
- The Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Mr. Per Westerberg
- The Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, Mr. Andrew Scheer
- The Speaker of the Senate of Canada, Mr. Noël A. Kinsella
- The President of the Legislative Chamber of the Federal District of Brazil, Mr. Wasny de Roure
- The President of the Federal Senate of Brazil, Mr. José Renan Vasconcelos Calheiros
- The President of the Senate of the French Republic, Mr. Jean-Pierre Bel
- The President of the Walloon Parliament, Mr. Patrick Dupriez
- The President of the Parliament of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Mr. Jean-Charles Luperto

The President of the Hellenic Parliament, Mr. Evangelos Meimarakis, met Mr. Jacques Chagnon.



OFFICIAL VISITS

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec City:

Parliamentary visits

- A delegation from the Parliament of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation
- A delegation from the National Constituent Assembly of the Republic of Tunisia
- A delegation from the Flemish Community Commission in Brussels
- A delegation from the Walloon Parliament
- A delegation from the Commission on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Policy of the Flemish Parliament
- The President of the Association of French Regions and Member, Mr. Alain Rousset, accompanied by a delegation of local elected representatives
- The America Regional Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie
- A delegation from the Foreign Affairs Commission of the National Assembly of the French Republic
- A delegation of senators of the French Republic
- The intersessional meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Francophonie and the interparliamentary seminar for the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- A delegation from the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco

Visits from representatives of governments and intergovernmental organizations and other foreign dignitaries

- The Secretary General of the Francophonie, H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf
- The Minister-President of Wallonia and of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Mr. Rudy Demotte
- The Minister-President of Saxony, Mr. Stanislaw Tillich
- The Vice-President of Catalonia, Ms. Joana Ortega
- The Deputy Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Minister of Administrative Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration, Tourism and the Flemish Periphery, Mr. Geert Bourgeois
- The Minister of Culture of the Republic of Haiti, Ms. Josette Darguste
- A delegation from the Constitutional Council of the French Republic

Visits from representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps

- The Ambassador of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, H.E. Mr. N'Goran Kouamé
- The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Konstantin Zhigalov
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Haiti, H.E. Mr. Frantz Liautaud
- The Ambassador of Hungary, H.E. Mr. Laszlo Pordany
- The High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, H.E. Mr. Howard Drake
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe, H.E. Ms. Florence Zano Chideya
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Peru, H.E. Mr. José Antonio Raymundo Bellina Acevedo
- The Ambassador of Burkina Faso, H.E. Mr. Amadou Adrien Koné
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Ms. Nancy Ndiaye Ngom
- The Ambassador of Romania, H.E. Ms. Maria Ligor
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Austria, H.E. Mr. Arno Riedel
- The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan, H.E. Mr. Norihiro Okuda
- The Delegate of Wallonia-Brussels in Québec City, Mr. Daniel Sotiaux
- The Consul General of Korea in Montréal, Mr. Donghwan Choi
- The Consul General of the Lebanese Republic in Montréal, Mr. Fadi Ziadeh
- The Consul General of the Italian Republic in Montréal, Mr. Enrico Padula
- The Consul General of the Republic of Peru in Montréal, Ms. Doris Sotomayor
- The Consul General of Poland in Montréal, Mr. Andrzej Szydlo
- The Consul General of Germany in Montréal, Mr. Walter Leuchs
- The established heads of consular posts in Québec – Consular Corps
- The Consul General of the Swiss Confederation in Montréal, Mr. Beat Urs Kaser
- The Consul General of the United States of America in Québec City, Mr. Peter O'Donohue
- The Consul General of the Republic of Irak in Montréal, Mr. Jassim Nima Msawil
- The Consul General of the United Mexican States in Montréal, Mr. Francisco Eduardo Del Rio Lopez
- The Consul General of the United States of America in Québec City, Mr. Hale VanKoughnett
- The Consul General of the Federation of Russia in Montréal, Mr. Yury Bedzhanyan

The President of the National Assembly with the Consul General of the Republic of Peru, Ms. Doris Sotomayor.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
AND THE CITIZENS

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS

The National Assembly seeks to be close to the citizens, accessible and friendly. It encourages the public's participation in parliamentary proceedings using modern technological tools and information networks, in addition to proposing different activities to educate on democracy. Moreover, it organizes recognition ceremonies to honour people who made outstanding contributions in various sectors.

From left to right: Messrs. Joé Juneau and Camille Laverdière, Ms. Francine Jutras, Mr. Jacques Chagnon and Mmes. Monique Lefebvre and Hélène-Andrée Bizier.

Medal of Honour of the National Assembly

The Medal of Honour is awarded to public figures from all walks of life who, through their career, their work or their social commitment, have earned the recognition of the Members of the National Assembly and the people of Québec.

During the year, seven public figures were awarded the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly at two ceremonies that were held on 14 May and on 19 November 2013. They are:

- Ms. Hélène-Andrée Bizier, historian and essayist;
- Mr. Joé Juneau, founder and coordinator of a youth development program promoting education through hockey in Nunavik;
- Mr. Camille Laverdière, researcher, geographer and geomorphologist;
- Ms. Monique Lefebvre, founder of Défi sportif AlterGo;
- Ms. Francine Ruest Jutras, Mayor of Drummondville from 1987 to 2013;
- Ms. Dominique Michel, humorist and actress;
- Mr. David Saint-Jacques, astronaut.

Ms. Dominique Michel and Mr. David Saint-Jacques were awarded the Medal of Honour by President Chagnon.

Public participation in parliamentary proceedings

Many avenues are open to citizens who wish to take part in the work of Members and thus express their opinions[1].

To take part in the proceedings of the National Assembly, sign a petition, submit a brief, or comment on a bill under consideration, please visit the "Voice Your Opinion" section of the National Assembly website.

PETITIONS

Any Québec resident may start a petition and present it to the Assembly through a Member of the National Assembly. A petition may be started by an individual or an association and signed on paper or online on the website of the National Assembly. This site also allows citizens to consult petitions that have already been presented to the Assembly.

[1] For statistics on briefs tabled by citizens, please visit the committee proceedings section.

Paper petitions	E-petitions	Total petitions presented	Answers to petitions*
135 petitions 180,351 signatures	100 petitions 360,121 signatures	**235 petitions** **540,472 signatures**	126

* Note that a single answer may be given for several petitions concerning the same subject.

Since the parliamentary reform of 2009, which enabled citizens to start and sign e-petitions directly on the Assembly website, the number of e-petitions has been rising steadily.

It should also be noted that several petitions on the same topic may be presented. For example, 68 petitions concerning amendments to the *Tobacco Act* were tabled this year.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

Citizens may leave comments on the website with regard to topics being considered by the Assembly or by the standing committees. An icon appears on the page when comments are possible. By clicking on the icon, visitors can fill out the form and forward it electronically. Forms can also be filled out onscreen or on paper and sent through regular mail. Visitors can comment on:

- standing committee orders;
- public and general consultation topics;
- bills and draft bills.

In 2013-2014, visitors left a total number of 1395 comments regarding 91 orders, consultation topics, bills and draft bills. Most of these were sent via the Internet.

An Assembly that opens its doors to citizens

VISITORS AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The National Assembly can be discovered in a number of ways. In 2013-2014, over 100,000 people came through the doors of the Parliament Building. Of this number, 21,099 persons visited the restaurants, the standing committee rooms and the Boutique gift shop and 81,362 persons took a guided tour.

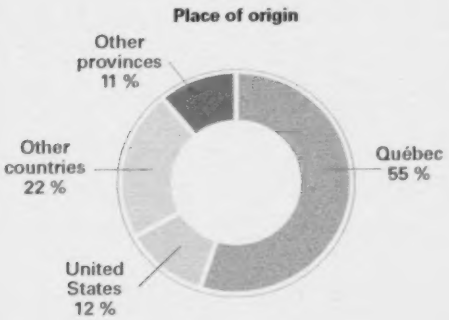
To get an idea of the work of Members, 8,265 persons attended a sitting of the National Assembly, mainly during Question Period. Moreover, 6,662 persons attended a standing committee sitting or took part therein.

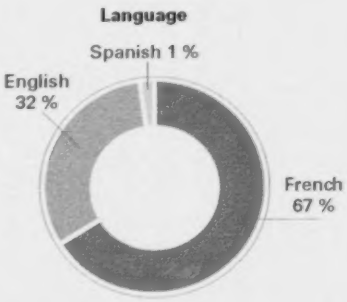
Guided tours

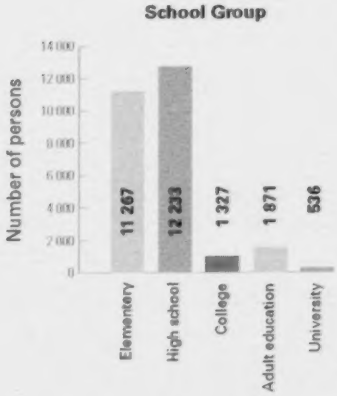
The National Assembly offers visitors free guided tours providing details of the history and workings of Québec's parliamentary institutions. The majority of visitors, 55 %, were Quebecers.

Also, over 27,000 young people increased their knowledge of the Parliament via a guided tour with their school group. Approximately 85 % of these groups came from Québec.

Furthermore, guided tours of the Parliament Building gardens are offered from 24 June to Labour Day. Visitors may enjoy the architectural features of the Parliament Building, the statues of great Québec statesmen as well as the gardens. In summer 2013, 293 persons took these outdoor tours and 11,689 visitors obtained information from guides posted at a booth located in front of the Parliament Building.







Open house day

On Québec's national holiday, 24 June 2013, 1,360 individuals attended an open-house day and discovered the Parliament Building, its history and architectural features. On this occasion, representatives of Urbainculteurs, urban agriculture specialists, presented the National Assembly's new garden layout. Furthermore, a balloon artist, a face painter and violinists kept the children entertained throughout this day of festivities.

Urban agriculture specialists gave information to visitors.

Les trésors de la Bibliothèque exhibition

Witnesses to the past, the rare books of the National Assembly Library paint a unique picture of a rich and diverse history. This exhibition, which was launched in February 2014, displays some of the finest books from the Library's collections, including four incunabula, that is, books printed before 1500, as well as a special edition of the Magna Carta, published in 1680.

Familiarisation days

The Vice-President of the National Assembly, Mr. François Ouimet, welcomes immigrants.

Familiarisation days for Quebecers from immigrant backgrounds enable these citizens to become more familiar with the democratic institution of the National Assembly of Québec. They also have the opportunity to meet the President and some parliamentarians, to exchange views with these Members and to know more about the history of Québec and the parliamentary system. These days, which take place at the Parliament Building, are organized in collaboration with the Department of Immigration and Cultural Communities and the National Capital Commission of Québec.

Familiarisation days in 2013-2014

28 May 2013	49 participants	Eastern Townships region
29 October 2013	54 participants	National Capital region (including Charlevoix and Portneuf)

Political Book Prize winners

On the occasion of the Salon international du livre de Québec, for the 11th year, authors writing about topics related to Québec politics were awarded the Political Book Prize. The President of the Québec National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, and the Vice-President, Mr. Claude Cousineau, announced the winners for 2013 on 11 April.

Ms. Maria Tomàs was awarded first prize by the President of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly's Prix de la Présidence
(underline the quality and originality of books on Québec politics published in the past year)

1st prize: Mariona Tomàs	*Penser métropolitain ? La bataille politique du Grand Montréal.* (Presses de l'Université du Québec)
2nd prize: Gérard Bouchard	*L'interculturalisme : un point de vue québécois.* (Boréal)
3rd prize: Alain Lavigne	*Duplessis, pièce manquante d'une légende : l'invention du marketing politique.* (Septentrion)

The Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant (master's theses)

1st prize: Mathieu Arsenault	*L'historiographie des Rébellions de 1837-1838 au XXe siècle : débats et rôle structurant dans la construction des grandes représentations de l'histoire du Québec.* (Université du Québec à Rimouski)
2nd prize: Jérémie Hains-Pouliot	*La restructuration de la fonction publique québécoise : vers un nouveau modèle de prestation des services publics ?* (Université Laval)
2nd prize: Marc-André Turcotte	*Comment faire indirectement ce qu'on ne peut faire directement : le pouvoir fédéral de dépenser à l'épreuve du fédéralisme canadien.* (Université Laval)

The winners of the Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant (master's thesis category) accompanied by the Vice-President of the National Assembly, Mr. Claude Cousineau. From left to right: Marc-André Turcotte, Jérémie Hains-Pouliot and Mathieu Arseneault.

The Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant and Prix Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec / Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes de France (doctoral thesis)

1st prize: Jean Baril	*Droit d'accès à l'information environnementale : pierre d'assise du développement durable.* (Université Laval)

Brunches at Le Parlementaire restaurant

Le Parlementaire restaurant invited the population to two brunches on 9 and 16 February 2014, during the Québec Winter Carnival festivities. Over 620 persons took the opportunity to enjoy a menu featuring Québec's regional dishes and to visit the Parliament Building.

The Library of the National Assembly

The Library's mission is to provide information and research services to parliamentarians and the administrative branches, in addition to being open to the public. Along with providing reference, research, document and archival management services, it is responsible for the preservation and promotion of the National Assembly's heritage material.

A LIBRARY THAT OPENS ITS DOORS TO CITIZENS

During the past year, 10,656 persons visited the Library of the National Assembly as library users, guests at special events or visitors. Open houses, guided tours, book launches, exhibitions and conferences held throughout the year attracted over 4,000 visitors.

Lastly, 4,165 citizens used the reference services and benefited from welcoming, guidance and training services as well as access to the website of the Assembly and the Library catalogue.

SUPPORT TO PARLIAMENTARIANS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

In 2013-2014, the Library Research Service helped the sectorial standing committees carry out their orders by preparing analysis and background reports. The Service was tasked with a total of 52 mandates that resulted in 111 separate papers, including 11 standing committee reports that were tabled in the National Assembly. The Library staff also actively took part in the proceedings of the Committee on Public Administration and in the drafting of both biannual reports on the accountability of the public administration.

During the year, support to interparliamentary and international relations activities translated into 55 research mandates, in the form of drafting speeches, reports and briefing notes.

PUBLICATIONS

In the historical and institutional research sector, two issues of the Library periodical, the *Bulletin de la Bibliothèque*, were published and several articles of the Encyclopédie du parlementarisme québécois were put online.

The Encyclopédie du parlementarisme québécois, which is available on the National Assembly website, provides an overview of the knowledge acquired over the decades by the Research Service with regard to a variety of facets of our parliamentary system.

This is available on the Assembly's website at assnat.qc.ca/patrimoine/lexique

Librarians also published each week a list of the Library's new arrivals and regularly added data to the *Bibliographie sur le parlementarisme au Québec*, which is available online and constitutes the most comprehensive source of information to date on parliamentary work.

LIBRARY COLLECTION

As at 31 March 2014, 333,831 documents were available for consultation in the Library's CUBIQ computerized catalogue.

The National Assembly Library collection comprises the following:

Print	
Monographs	512,921
Magazines	284,386
Newspapers	737,408
Other	
Microfilms	39,001
Electronic documents	134,315

Educational activities

The National Assembly wishes to stimulate the interest of young people in the exercise of democracy. In order to contribute to their becoming active and well-informed citizens, the National Assembly has developed various activities and publications to educate on democracy.

Throughout the year, the Assembly carried on with its youth-oriented activities. Hence, the President's Tour of high schools, the Young Democrats' Tournament, the parliamentary simulations, along with the activities of the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant contributed to educating young people on democracy.

The Vice-President, Mr. Claude Cousineau, met the students of Saint-Stanislas school.

PRESIDENT'S TOUR

During the Tour, the President of the Assembly or one of the three Vice-Presidents meets with students in their high school, accompanied by the Member for the electoral division visited. From 1 April to 13 May 2013, and from 4 October to 22 November 2013, the President and Vice-Presidents met 5,402 students in 45 schools located in 14 Québec regions.

This activity aims to:

- broaden the knowledge of students with regard to the role played by the Members, the President and the National Assembly;
- promote the importance of citizen participation;
- provide young people with an opportunity to exchange views on topics that are of interest to them.

PARLIAMENTARY SIMULATIONS

These role-playing activities are designed to educate participants about the operation of the National Assembly, its rules, privileges and powers. Apprentice Members spend several days drafting and discussing bills while learning the art of compromise, consensus and respect for others.

17th PUPILS' PARLIAMENT

Date: 3 May 2013
Target group: 6th grade elementary school students
Number of participants: 124 students and 67 teachers
Three bills were studied:

- An Act respecting security in and around school buses
- An Act respecting the health of young people
- An Act respecting recycling in elementary schools

All three bills were passed.

PARLEMENT ÉCOLIER

22nd STUDENT FORUM

Date: 6 to 10 January 2014
Target group: College students
Number of participants: 127 students and 42 teachers
Number of Cegeps represented: 25
Three bills were studied:

- An Act respecting end-of-life care
- An Act respecting the privatization of Hydro-Québec
- An Act respecting mandatory voting

The two first bills were passed, while the third bill was negatived.

FORUM ÉTUDIANT

12th YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT

Date: 22 to 24 January 2014
Target group: Secondary 3 and 4 students
Number of participants: 135 students and 45 teachers
Number of schools represented: 37
Three bills were studied:

- An Act aiming to prohibit contests in which the overriding criterion is physical appearance for persons under 14 years of age
- An Act relating to the introduction of on-the-job training for secondary 5 students
- An Act aiming to reduce waiting time in Québec's emergency wards

The first bill was passed, while both other bills were negatived.

PARLEMENT DES JEUNES

Debate on an opposition motion:

"That the Assembly of the Young People›s Parliament support the introduction of a compulsory course on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and self-defence in Québec's high schools."
The motion was carried.

Order of initiative:

Students had the opportunity to question Mr. Vincent Deslauriers, active citizenship officer for the Youth Forum of the Capitale-Nationale, on the theme of active citizenship among young people.

Youth Parliament and Student Parliament of Québec

PJQ
Parlement étudiant du Québec

In addition to its own simulations, the National Assembly also lends its support and arranges logistics for two parliamentary simulations aimed at young people aged 18 to 25:

- The Youth Parliament of Québec, organized by the Association québécoise des jeunes parlementaires inc;
- The Student Parliament of Québec, organized by the Assemblée parlementaire des étudiants du Québec inc.

The 64th Youth Parliament, held from 26 to 30 December 2013, brought together 104 participants. A few days later, from 2 to 6 January 2014, the 28th Student Parliament of Québec attracted 146 participants. Each year, these activities give young people an opportunity to learn about the basics of the legislative and parliamentary process.

Young Democrats' Tournament

The Young Democrats' Tournament is a quiz that invites contestants to test their knowledge about the evolution of democracy, from Ancient Greece to modern day, and on Québec's political history. Young people from secondary 4 and 5 as well as from college participate each year in this educational activity.

Date: 12 to 14 April 2013
Target group: Secondary 4 and 5 and college students
Number of participants: 231 young people and 57 teachers
Number of participating schools: 37
Number of teams involved: 52 (33 secondary – 19 college)
Main theme: Québec and its regions

TOURNOI JEUNES DÉMOCRATES

Gold medal winners:
High school category: **Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf**
College category: **Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf**

FONDATION JEAN-CHARLES-BONENFANT

Parliamentary internships

Each year, five ten-month internships are offered to students who have earned a degree from a Québec university in the past two years. The internship includes a $21,000 scholarship.

During their internship, the five candidates selected experience the numerous facets of Québec parliamentary life, becoming more familiar with the operation of the National Assembly and institutions that report to it.

Furthermore, each intern is paired with a Member from the Government and then a Member in opposition. The five interns also participate in a fact-finding mission to a foreign parliament and exchange with their counterparts from the Parliament of Canada and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Along with these activities, the interns are required to prepare a dissertation on a topic in relation to parliamentarism and democracy.

FONDATION
JEAN-CHARLES-BONENFANT

End of 2012-2013 internships

On 5 June 2013, an official ceremony marked the end of the internships that began in September 2012 as interns Gabrielle Angers-Gosselin, Gabriel Coulombe, Rébecca Morency, Samuel Morissette and David Searle submitted their dissertations. Mr. Claude Cousineau, Vice-President of the National Assembly and vice-chair of the foundation, hosted the ceremony.

From left to right: Gabriel Coulombe, David Searle, Rébecca Morency, Samuel Morissette and Gabrielle Angers-Gosselin

Their dissertations were entitled as follows:

- *La diversité ethnoculturelle à l'Assemblée nationale : portrait et perceptions des députés de circonscriptions multiculturelles de la région métropolitaine de Montréal* (Gabrielle Angers-Gosselin)
- *Le rôle de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec dans l'édification de la COPA :* **contexte, objectifs et analyse critique des retombées** (Gabriel Coulombe)
- *Les perceptions des députés et des jeunes sur le déclin de la participation citoyenne au Québec : analyse et comparaison* (Rébecca Morency)
- *Les parlementaires de l'Assemblée nationale et le cynisme envers la politique, entre la réalité politique et l'utopie démocratique* (Samuel Morissette)
- *De quoi unir le Québec : 626 motions qui ont fait consensus à l'Assemblée nationale durant la 39e législature* (David Searle)

These dissertations are available from the Library of the National Assembly and the foundation's website at www.fondationbonenfant.qc.ca.

The 2013-2014 internships

The Vice-President of the National Assembly, Mr. Claude Cousineau, with the 2013-2014 interns: Audrée Ross, Isabelle Giroux, Joël Bégin, Alexandre Duval and Anaïs Jalbert

The parliamentary internships began in September 2013 for Joël Bégin, Alexandre Duval, Isabelle Giroux, Anaïs Jalbert and Audrée Ross. Upon their arrival, they were introduced to parliamentary life through tailor-made training sessions designed to help them fully benefit from their experience within the institution. Contrary to what had been planned, each intern was paired with only one Member (instead of two) due to the election call. They were thus able to concentrate on drafting their dissertations and preparing their mission to Morocco.

PARLIAMENTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND PARLIAMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL

The students of Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur school at the Parliaments in Elementary Schools and High Schools Gala with the Vice-President of the National Assembly, Mr. Claude Cousineau.

Parliaments in Elementary School and Parliaments in High School are inspired by the National Assembly while mirroring the operation of student councils. They encourage students to take part in decisions affecting student life, thus helping them to feel that they have a role to play in their school communities.

A total of 655 schools have registered with Parliaments in Elementary School and Parliaments in High School. Over 12,000 young people, student council members, take part in this activity.

Parliaments in Elementary School and Parliaments in High School Gala

To recompense students for their achievements in their student councils, the foundation awarded prizes during a ceremony held at the Parliament Building, on 31 May 2013.

PRIZES AWARDED TO PARLIAMENTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	PRIZES AWARDED TO PARLIAMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL
An Act aiming to counter bullying and violence at school École Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur (Gaspé)	**An Act respecting the appointment of a citizen of the month** Polyvalente Louis-Saint-Laurent (East Angus)
An Act respecting the creation of a code of conduct for suitable and desired behaviour in the school yard École Jean XXIII (Saint-Wenceslas)	**An Act to raise awareness regarding vandalism** École des Grandes-Marées (Saguenay)
An Act respecting the establishment of a committee of the five family clans École Ts8taïe (Wendake)	**An Act against the deportation of secondary 3 student Edouardo Reyes-Mendez and his family** École Mont-de-La Salle (Laval)

RESEARCH CHAIR ON DEMOCRACY AND PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS

Launched in November 2007, the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions is the result of a joint initiative of the National Assembly and Laval University. The National Assembly of the French Republic, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Auditor General, the Public Protector, the Lobbyists Commissioner as well as the CROP polling firm are also Chair partners.

Chaire de recherche
sur la démocratie et les institutions
parlementaires

The Chair has four objectives:

1. Create a university hub of excellence on democracy and parliamentary institutions;
2. Make parliamentary institutions a specific research, teaching and training subject in political science and the social sciences;
3. Promote the awareness of students about all aspects of parliamentarism in modern democracies;
4. Foster the openness of the parliamentary community concerning its environment.

Its activities include support for research, continuous education and knowledge sharing.

Acknowledgment activity

On 28 November 2013, the President of the Québec National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, greeted the partners and scholarship recipients for 2013-2014 of the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions at the National Assembly Library. This was the second event of its kind, which highlights the achievements and projects of the Chair.

STUDENT PAGE PROGRAM

Established in collaboration with Laval University in 2009, the student page program allows undergraduate students of Laval University the possibility of gaining valuable work experience and familiarizing themselves with Québec's parliamentary institutions. The primary role of pages is to answer requests from the President and Vice-Presidents, Members, their political staff and the clerks, so that they may devote themselves exclusively to their debates and activities in the best of conditions. As such, pages must, among other things, prepare rooms, distribute documents and ensure written communications among Members and their staff.

The 2013-2014 student pages.

Fourteen pages took up their duties at the end of August 2013. This remunerated internship requires students to work ten to fourteen hours a week at the National Assembly and to write a research paper on a facet of parliamentarism of their choice. Students taking part in the page program earn six academic credits toward their bachelor's degree. This internship is open to students enrolled in one of the following programs: public affairs, international relations, international studies, modern languages, law, history, political science, political philosophy, political economy and anthropology.

COURSE IN PARLIAMENTARY LAW AND PROCEDURE

Laval University and the National Assembly form a partnership to offer a course on parliamentary law and procedure. Intended for law, political science, public affairs and international relations students, this course seeks to instruct them on the various elements of Assembly activities and operations, from the foundations of parliamentary procedure to the legislative and budgetary processes, through to parliamentary privilege, the role of the Chair and the work of the standing committees.

The year 2014 marked the 10th anniversary of this course. Through the years, it has provided some 250 students with specialized training given by the National Assembly's experts on parliamentary procedure.

TELEVISION BROADCASTING

The National Assembly Channel upgraded to high definition in fall 2013. Citizens have access to this channel via certain cable companies. Moreover, the goal was to extend the service to allow a larger number of people to have access to political activities in a high quality format.

New productions scheduled for 2013-2014

Focus	Lasting a few minutes, the Focus vignettes concern parliamentary and institutional news.
Place aux archives	Put into context by historian Christian Blais, this series presents excerpts of Québec's first parliamentary television broadcasts as well as the Question Period of each new Legislature since 1978.
Les grandes conférences	Rebroadcasting on Sunday night of conferences given at the invitation of the President of the National Assembly, on topics concerning parliamentarism and political life in Québec.
Mémoires de députés	In 2013-2014, 30 new episodes were added to the Mémoires de députés series, in which former Members of the National Assembly recall their experience in politics.

Statistics on broadcasting

Close to 9,000 hours of programming were broadcast in 2013-2014 by the National Assembly Channel, most of which is also available on the Assembly website. This number includes the broadcasting of Assembly and standing committee sittings, press conferences and briefings, certain special activities as well as original productions.

Coverage service and web broadcasting	Number of activities	Duration
Parliamentary and institutional activities	779	1,653 hr. 48 min.
Press events	367	119 hr. 50 min.
Total	**1 146**	**1,773 hr. 38 min.**
Broadcasting – National Assembly Channel	**Number of activities**	**Duration**
Parliamentary and institutional activities (including press events)	1 615	3,247 hr. 47 min.
Institutional promotion Members' holiday greetings	—	643 hr. 05 min.
Continuous electronic hosting	—	4,869 hr. 08 min.
Total		**8,760 hr. 00 min.**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Mission and values of the National Assembly administration

MISSION

The mission of the Assembly administration is to provide all of the necessary services and resources to Members in order to support them in the performance of their duties. Members are called upon to legislate, supervise the public administration and represent their fellow citizens.

VALUES

The administration of the National Assembly supports the statement of values of the public administration of Québec, which is based on competence, impartiality, integrity, loyalty and respect. Within the parliamentary context, it also endorses the following values:

NEUTRALITY: a parliamentary administration focused on service to Members, regardless of political allegiance.

OPENNESS: a parliamentary administration that is ever mindful that the National Assembly must be accessible and inviting to all citizens.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: a parliamentary administration that respects people, the environment and the universal values of sharing and caring.

MODERNITY: a parliamentary administration that encourages diversity in all of its many forms and that incorporates technologies as a means of developing closer ties.

RESPECT FOR HERITAGE: a parliamentary administration that protects and promotes the rich tangible and intangible heritage of the Assembly.

The Office of the National Assembly

The role of the Office of the National Assembly is to oversee and direct the Assembly administration. It must, among other duties, adopt the administrative organization plan of the National Assembly, approve the Assembly's budgetary estimates and regulate matters of immediate concern to Members, such as their allowances and working conditions, as well as those of their staff.

COMPOSITION OF THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS AT 5 MARCH 2014		
Chair of the Office: Mr. Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis)		
Members		
Parti québécois (5)	**Québec Liberal Party (3)**	**Coalition avenir Québec (1)**
Mr. Jean-Marie Claveau (Dubuc)	Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)	Ms. Sylvie Roy (Arthabaska)
Mr. Daniel Goyer (Deux-Montagnes)	Ms. Marguerite Blais (Saint-Henri—Sainte-Anne)	
Mr. Roland Richer (Argenteuil)	Mr. Robert Dutil (Beauce-Sud)	
Mr. Sylvain Roy (Bonaventure)		
Mr. Luc Trudel (Saint-Maurice)		
Substitute members		
Parti québécois	**Québec Liberal Party**	**Coalition avenir Québec**
Ms. Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel)	Ms. Lucie Charlebois (Soulanges)	Mr. François Bonnardel (Granby)
Ms. Marie Bouillé (Iberville)	Mr. Jean D'Amour (Rivière-du-Loup—Témiscouata)	
Mr. Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque)	Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier (Saint-Laurent)	
Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)		
Mr. Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean)		

Changes in the administrative structure

The administrative structure underwent certain changes over the past year. Hence, on 13 June 2013, the Office Secretariat of the National Assembly was integrated into the Office of the Secretary General.

Subsequently, on 24 October 2013, the Visitor Services Directorate was incorporated into the Communications and Educational Programs Directorate, which became the Communications, Educational Programs and Visitor Services Directorate. Moreover, the activities related to interparliamentary and international relations as well as protocol were merged to form the new Interparliamentary and International Relations and Protocol Directorate.

The changes in the administrative structure were aimed at:

- generating savings with respect to senior management positions by rearranging some directorates or by eliminating positions subsequent to retirements;
- regrouping similar services to improve the provision of services to parliamentarians and creating better synergy between these directorates;
- offering new challenges to managers in service by increasing responsibilities and granting promotions matching their level of responsibility.

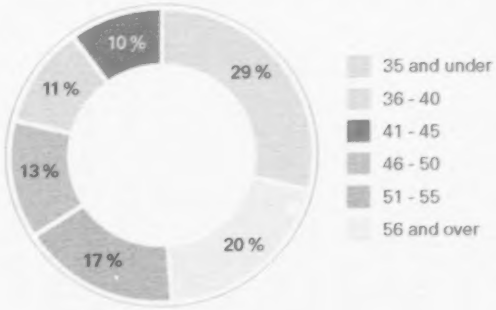
Personnel

STAFF AS AT 31 MARCH 2014

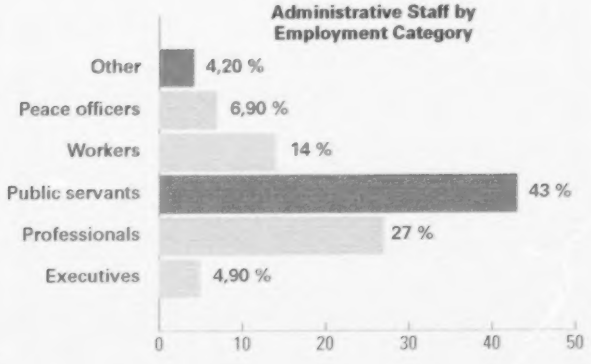
To carry out its mission, the National Assembly currently has an administrative staff of 503 regular employees and 198 casual employees.

The political sector, composed of executive assistants, political aides, advisors and support staff, totals 522 persons, divided between Parliament Hill and Members' riding offices.

Administrative Staff by Age Group



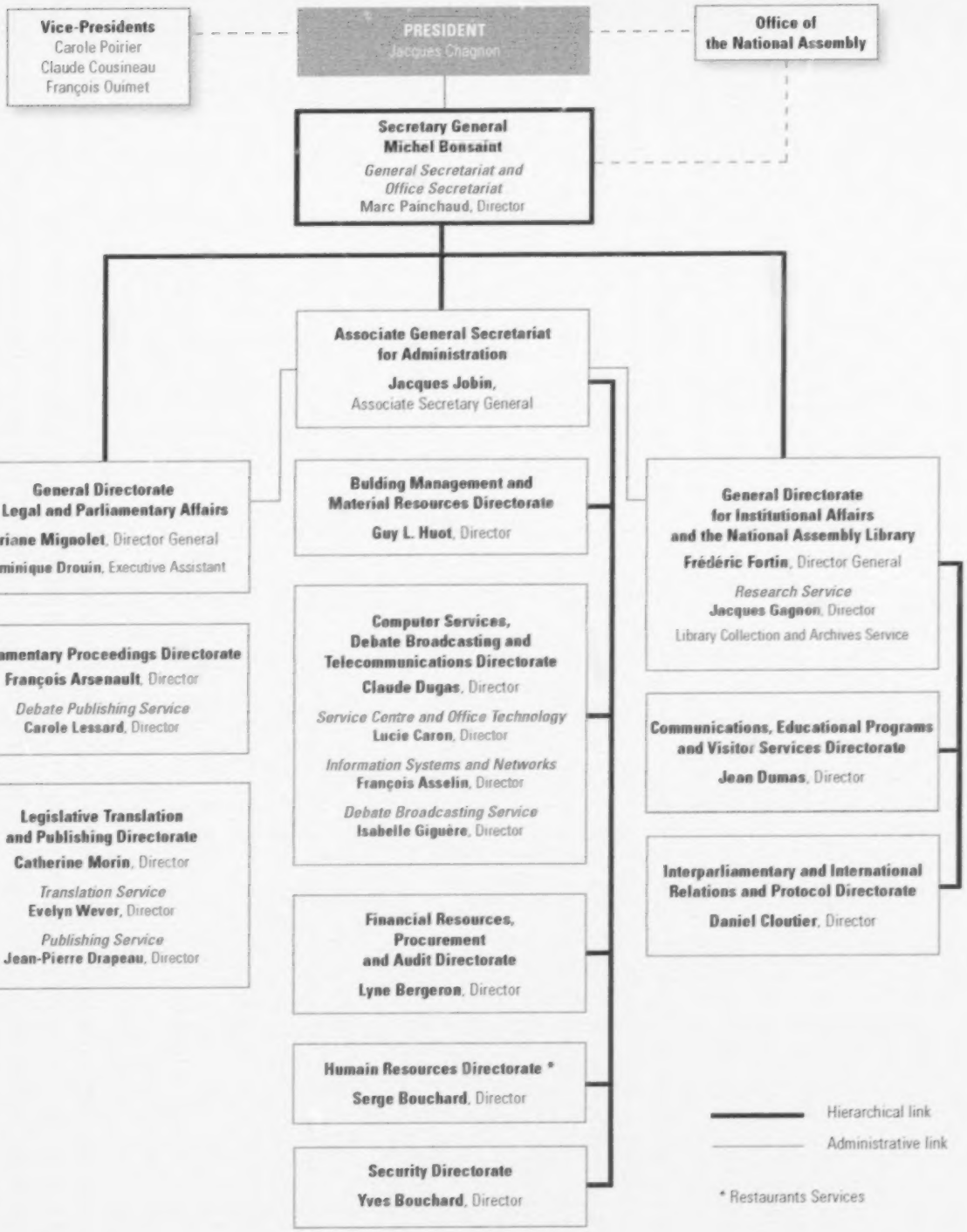
Administrative Staff by Employment Category



Gender distribution

Women	**52 %**
Men	**48 %**

Administrative structure as at 31 March 2014



A quarter century and more of commitment

On 5 December 2013, a reception was held at the Library to celebrate the dedication of ten employees who have worked as public servants for 25 years and one for 40 years. Mmes Marie Auger, Lena Day, Louise Gagné, Liliane Giroux, Carole Lessard, Johanne Vézina, Messrs. Marcel Bernier, Claude Bastien, Michel Métivier, Georges Blanchet as well as Mr. René Chrétien, who has 40 years of service, were all honoured at the event. The Vice-President of the National Assembly, Ms. Carole Poirier, and the Secretary General, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, as well as several other guests attended the ceremony.

First row, from left to right: Ms. Lena Day, Messrs. Michel Bonsaint and René Chrétien, Mmes. Carole Poirier, Marie Auger, Louise Gagné and Johanne Vézina.

Second row, from left to right: Mr. Georges Blanchet, Ms. Liliane Giroux, Messrs. Michel Métivier, Claude Bastien, Marcel Bernier and Ms. Carole Lessard.

The administration at a glance

Several projects are carried out each year within the National Assembly administration. Below are some of the projects completed in 2013-2014.

Paperless meetings

In 2013, the concept of a paperless meeting site was implemented to ensure sustainable development. Members of the Office of the National Assembly and of the Assembly's management committee can henceforth access the relevant meeting documentation using their tablet computers.

Modernization of the restaurants' kitchen

The National Assembly restaurants' kitchen equipment was upgraded, thus enabling staff to offer a range of services in a modern and functional workspace that is particularly adapted to its needs.

Jobs featured on the Assembly website

Librarian, committee clerk, transcriber and tour guide are some of the jobs featured in a new part of the Careers and Internships section on the Assembly website. This allows the public to learn more about the National Assembly administration.

Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour program

On 18 April 2013, six secondary 4 and 5 students were mentored by employees of the Debates Broadcasting Service and thus given the opportunity to find out more about professions of interest to them, including those of cameraman and producer.

Professional development for government lawyers

To allow public service lawyers to complete their mandatory professional development, the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs General Directorate offers training that is recognized by the Québec Bar. This gives government lawyers a better understanding of the National Assembly's role in the adoption of bills that they are called upon to draft, pilot and apply.

Job Fairs

The Human Resources Directorate plays an active role in promoting the National Assembly as an employer of choice. In 2013-2014, it took part in nine job fairs, such as the Foire de l'emploi at ExpoCité.

Pairing of law students

The Assembly piloted a new type of training program, in collaboration with the Law Faculty of Laval University, which is intended for students interested in legislative drafting and the parliamentary process. In January 2014, a group of nine students was given the opportunity to take part in the drafting of three bills during the Student Forum, a parliamentary simulation for college students. In addition to gaining knowledge by drafting amendments, among other things, they earned university credits for this activity.

Joint Canadian-American Clerks' Conference

From 4 to 8 August 2013, the National Assembly welcomed participants of the Joint Canadian-American Clerks' Conference. This conference is held biennially and hosted alternately between Canada and the United States. Some thirty delegates representing ten Canadian legislative assemblies, the House of Commons as well as eight American States took part therein. The numerous workshops and activities enabled participants to take a closer look at common issues.

Use of appropriations allocated to the National Assembly in 2013-2014

	Appropriations used*($000)	Authorized staff positions	
		Permanent employees**	Casual employees**
GENERAL SECRETARIAT			
General Secretariat and Office Secretariat Directorate	1,644.8	8	0
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS			
General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	1,510.7	15	0
Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate	3,554.1	44	16
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	529.2	18	0
	5,594.0	77	16
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY			
General Directorate for Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library	6,727.6	78	2
Interparliamentary and International Relations and Protocol Directorate	3,100.1	32	0
Communications, Educational Programs and Visitor Services Directorate	3,355.0	50	6
	13,182.7	160	8
ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION			
Associate General Secretariat for Administration	1,958.1	1	0
Building Management and Material Resources Directorate	8,169.7	55	2
Computer Services, Debate Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate	9,148.2	89	16
Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate	1,316.2	27	0
Human Resources Directorate	10,748.9	41	2
Restaurants Service	1,561.5	4	15
Security Directorate	4,809.3	80	9
	37,711.9	297	44
STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES TO PARLIAMENTARIANS	60,814.4		
APPROPRIATIONS USED	118,947.8	542	68
FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATION	6,159.1		

* The appropriations used include fixed assets, salaries, operations, advances and transfers.

** Authorized FTEs (full-time equivalents)

APPENDICES

Bills passed

40th LEGISLATURE – 1st SESSION
(1 AVRIL 2013 TO 5 MARCH 2014)

Note: The dissolution of the Assembly took place on 5 March 2014

List of abbreviations:

CNA:	Committee on the National Assembly
CPA:	Committee on Public Administration
CAFENR:	Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources
CPP:	Committee on Planning and the Public Domain
CCE:	Committee on Culture and Education
CLE:	Committee on Labour and the Economy
CPF:	Committee on Public Finance
CI:	Committee on Institutions
CCR:	Committee on Citizen Relations
CHSS:	Committee on Health and Social Services
CTE:	Committee on Transportation and the Environment
CW:	Committee of the Whole

LIST OF GOVERNMENT BILLS PASSED:

3	CI	An Act to amend the Election Act for the purpose of establishing fixed-date elections (Vote: Yeas 98, Nays 0, Abstentions 0 – passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
12	CI	An Act to amend the Police Act as concerns independent investigations (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
13	CI	An Act to amend the Election Act with regard to on-campus voting by students in vocational training centres and post-secondary educational institutions *(modified title)* (Vote: Yeas 110, Nays 0, Abstentions 0 - passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
17	CI	An Act to amend the Professional Code with respect to disciplinary justice (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)

18	CPF	An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
21	CPF	An Act to optimize government action in delivering public services to citizens and businesses (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
22	CI	An Act to amend the Crime Victims Compensation Act, the Act to promote good citizenship and certain provisions of the Civil Code concerning prescription (*modified title*) (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
23	CCE	An Act to amend the Education Act concerning certain educational services for four-year-old students from underprivileged backgrounds (*modified title*) (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
24	CCE	An Act to amend the Act respecting school elections and other legislative provisions (*modified title*) (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
25	CPF	An Act respecting mainly the implementation of certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 20 November 2012 (Vote: Yeas 74, Nays 16, Abstentions 0 – passed on division) (spring 2013)
26	CPP	An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities with respect to financing (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
27	CPP	Social Economy Act (Vote: Yeas 107, Nays 0, Abstentions 0 – passed unanimously) (fall 2013)
28	CI	An Act to establish the new Code of Civil Procedure (passed unanimously) (spring 2014)
29	CHSS	An Act to amend the Act respecting Héma-Québec and the haemovigilance committee (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
30	CHSS	An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions with respect to research (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
31	CPF	An Act to amend various legislative provisions mainly concerning the financial sector (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
32	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Pension Plan of Peace Officers in Correctional Services and other legislative provisions (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
35	CI	An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards civil status, successions and the publication of rights (passed unanimously) (fall 2013)

38	CPF	An Act respecting the governance of public infrastructures, establishing the Société québécoise des infrastructures and amending various legislative provisions (passed unanimously) (fall 2013)
39	CPF	Voluntary Retirement Savings Plans Act (Vote: Yeas 103, Nays 2, Abstentions 0 - passed on division) (fall 2013)
41	CPF	An Act to amend the Public Service Act mainly with respect to staffing (Vote: Yeas 99, Nays 0, Abstentions 0 - passed unanimously) (fall 2013)
42	CPP	An Act establishing the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government and introducing certain legislative amendments concerning the Cree Nation Government (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
45	CCE	An Act respecting the Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie (passed unanimously) (fall 2013)
46	CAFERN	An Act to amend the Act respecting the acquisition of farm land by non-residents (passed unanimously) (fall 2013)
51	CI	An Act to amend the Territorial Division Act and other legislative provisions (passed unanimously) (fall 2013)
54	CW	An Act respecting the resumption of work in the construction industry (passed on division) (extraordinary sitting - spring 2013)
57	CW	An Act in response to the 6 July 2013 railway disaster in Ville de Lac-Mégantic (passed unanimously) (fall 2013)
64	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs (passed unanimously) (fall 2013)
65	CI	An Act to replace and reconstitute the notarial deeds en minute destroyed in the 6 July 2013 railway disaster in Ville de Lac-Mégantic (passed unanimously) (fall 2013)
70	CW	An Act to amend the Mining Act (Vote: Yeas 99, Nays 2, Abstentions 0 – passed on division) (extraordinary sitting - fall 2013)

LIST OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS PASSED:

None

LIST OF PRIVATE BILLS PASSED:

202	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Terrebonne (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
203	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté de La Haute-Yamaska (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
204	CPP	An Act respecting various by-laws of Ville de Brossard and various by-laws of Ville de Longueuil applicable to the borough of Brossard (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
205	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Châteauguay (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
206	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté des Basques (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
207	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Windsor (passed unanimously) (fall 2013)
208	CPP	An Act concerning the possibility for the municipal founder to stand surety for the Société d'économie mixte d'énergie renouvelable de la région de Rivière-du-Loup inc. (*modified title*) (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
209	CPP	An Act respecting the possibility for municipal founders to stand surety for the Société d'Économie Mixte de l'Est de la Couronne Sud (SÉMECS) inc. (passed unanimously) (spring 2013)
211	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Sherbrooke (passed unanimously) (fall 2013)

Overview of bills passed

GOVERNMENT BILLS:

Spring 2013: **17** bills passed

Fall 2013: **12** bills passed

Spring 2014: **1** bill passed

Of the 30 bills passed during this period:

26 were passed unanimously

4 were passed on division

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS:

Spring 2013: no bills passed

Fall 2013: no bills passed

Spring 2014: no bills passed

PRIVATE BILLS:

Spring 2013: **7** bills passed

Fall 2013: **2** bills passed

Spring 2014: no bills passed

The 9 bills were **passed unanimously**.

Orders carried out by the standing committees or in progress as at 5 March 2014

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies concerning:

- Residential care facilities (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2012-2013, Spring 2012, Chapter 4)
- Maintenance deficit of public infrastructures (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2012-2013, Fall 2012, Chapter 4)
- The Sports and Physical Activity Development Fund (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2012-2013, Spring 2012, Chapter 3)
- The management of administrative tribunals (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2012-2013, Spring 2012, Chapter 2)
- The administrative management of the Ministère des Finances et de l'Économie
- The administrative management of Corporation d'Urgences-santé
- The Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2013-2014, Spring 2013, Chapter 3)
- The non-filing of returns at Revenu Québec (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2013-2014, Spring 2013, Chapter 5)
- Monitoring and supervision of municipal wastewater treatment and the monitoring and supervision of drinking water production (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2012-2013, Winter 2013, Chapters 5 and 6)

- Government interventions in the mining sector (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2012-2013, Winter 2013, Chapter 7)
- Intellectual disability and pervasive developmental disorders (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2013-2014, Spring 2013, Chapter 2)
- The administrative management of the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale
- The administrative management of the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec
- Homecare services (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2013-2014, Spring 2013, Chapter 4)
- Montreal University Health Centre (CHUM): administrative management and governance (Report of the Auditor General of Québec for 2013-2014, Fall 2013, Chapter 3)

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee vice-chair
- Hearing with the Auditor General on his annual management report and his financial commitments for 2012-2013

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Clause-by-clause consideration: 1 public bill

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 43, Mining Act
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 46, An Act to amend the Act respecting the acquisition of farm land by non-residents

Interpellations:

- The fiasco of the Parti Québécois governance as regards natural resources
- The Parti Québécois Government's inaction with regard to agriculture in Québec

Other order:

- Examine the acceptability for Québec of Enbridge Pipelines Inc.'s proposed project to reverse the flow of pipeline 9B eastward between North Westover and Montréal, as described in the document entitled "Inversion du flux de l'oléoduc 9B d'Enbridge"

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills, 9 private bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 26, An Act to amend the Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities with respect to financing
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 27, Social Economy Act
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 42, An Act establishing the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government and introducing certain legislative amendments concerning the Cree Nation Government

Interpellation:

- The lack of Parti Québécois leadership with regard to the issues pertaining to Greater Montréal

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

Consultations:

- General consultation within the framework of the consideration of Bill 14, An Act to amend the Charter of the French language, the Charter of human rights and freedoms and other legislative provisions (continued)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 24, An Act to amend the Act respecting school elections and other legislative provisions (*modified title*)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 23, An Act to amend the Education Act concerning certain educational services for four-year-old students from underprivileged backgrounds (*modified title*)

Other orders:

- Special consultations on the working paper on the regulation of retail prices of new printed and digital books
- Examination of the strategic plan for 2012-2016 and examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Société de télédiffusion du Québec (Télé-Québec)
- Hearing of the heads of educational institutions at the university level pursuant to the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level (R.S.Q., c. E-14-1)
- Election of the Committee vice-chair

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Consultation:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 36, An Act respecting the Banque de développement économique du Québec

Interpellations:

- The Parti Québécois Government's laissez-faire policy regarding labour
- The Parti Québécois Government's failure as regards regional economic development

Other orders:

- Inappropriate use of public funds by Tourisme Montréal
- Hearing of the President and Director General of the Conseil de gestion de l'assurance parentale on her management of the Fund and her administrative management, and examination of the report on the implementation of the Act respecting parental insurance

Examination of petitions:

- The increase in welfare benefits paid to disabled persons

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Clause-by-clause consideration: 7 public bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 18, An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 32, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Pension Plan of Peace Officers in Correctional Services and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 39, Voluntary Retirement Savings Plans Act
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 41, An Act to amend the Public Service Act mainly with respect to staffing

Interpellations:

- The drop in private investments announced in Québec since the election of the Parti Québécois
- Make an assessment of the consequences of the reduction in State revenues under the Parti Québécois Government
- The Government's management of infrastructure projects

- The Parti Québécois Government's disastrous results with regard to public finance management
- The Government's mismanagement of public expenditure

Other orders:

- Special consultations on the report entitled "Innovating for a Sustainable Retirement System" (D'Amours Report)
- Hearing of the Auditor General of Québec regarding his desire to implement the mandate entrusted to him by the National Assembly on September 24, 2013, following the passing of a motion instructing him to analyze the economic update to be presented by the Minister of Finance and the Economy for 2013–2014
- Hearing of the President and Chief Executive Officer and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fonds de solidarité FTQ on measures taken to improve its governance, in particular changes made in 2009, as well as the Autorité des marchés financiers
- Quarterly examination of the Government's budgetary policy and of the evolution of public finance (13 June 2013)
- Quarterly examination of the Government's budgetary policy and of the evolution of public finance (20 November 2013)

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Clause-by-clause consideration: 8 public bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 35, An Act to amend the Civil Code as regards civil status, successions and the publication of rights
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 28, An Act to establish the new Code of Civil Procedure
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 49, An Act to amend various legislation respecting the professions and other legislative provisions in the field of applied sciences
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 61, An Act mainly to recover amounts paid unjustly by public bodies in relation to certain contracts in the construction industry
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 65, An Act to replace and reconstitute the notarial deeds en minute destroyed in the 6 July 2013 railway disaster in Ville de Lac-Mégantic
- General consultation within the framework of the consideration of Bill 60, Charter affirming the values of State secularism and religious neutrality and of equality between women and men, and providing a framework for accommodation requests

Interpellations:

- The Parti Québécois Government's lack of foresight in the face of the flagrant issues related to prison overcrowding, internal management and security in Québec's detention centres
- The Parti Québécois Government's refusal to release all of the legal opinions concerning the Government's policy directions with regard to its Charter of Québec Values

Other orders:

- General consultation on the report entitled "Technology and Privacy, in a Time of Societal Choices"
- Hearing of the Minister of Justice concerning the comments of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse made public on 17 October 2013 on the Government's policy directions regarding the proposed charter of Québec values as well as on the unconstitutionality of the Government's proposal
- Election of the Committee vice-chair (10 January 2014)
- Election of the Committee vice-chair (12 February 2014)

Order of initiative:

- Consideration of the report on the proposed amendments to the Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Act and the 2007-2008 to 2011-2012 activity reports and examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Lobbyists Commissioner

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Surveillance of agencies and accountability:

- Québec Public Curator

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 29, An Act to amend the Act respecting Héma-Québec and the haemovigilance committee
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 30, An Act to amend the Civil Code and other legislative provisions with respect to research
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 52, An Act respecting end-of-life care

Interpellations:

- The autonomy insurance project of the Minister of Health and Social Services and responsible for Seniors
- The Parti Québécois Government's inability to provide a financial framework with regard to funding autonomy insurance

Other orders:

- Special consultations on the draft rules repealing the provision that prohibits the sale, service and consumption of alcoholic beverages inside gaming areas
- Special consultations on the management of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal by the current director general
- Special consultations on the white paper on the creation of autonomy insurance entitled "Autonomy for All"
- Examination of the report on the implementation of the *Tobacco Act*

Order of initiative:

- The living conditions of adults staying in residential and long-term care centres

Examination of petitions:

- A law authorizing people with disabilities to always be accompanied by their service dog
- The fluoridation of drinking water

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Consultation:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 37, An Act to prohibit certain shale natural gas exploration and production activities

Interpellation:

- The environmental issues related to the Québec Government's oil policy

Other orders:

- Election of the Committee chair
- Shed light on the events of 24 October 2012 concerning the action taken by the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks with regard to the independent public body known as the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE)

Wage bill, allowances and expenses of Members for 2013-2014

WAGE BILL OF MEMBERS

Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	$12,274,878

ALLOWANCES

Allowances for expenses, attendance and allowances for political activities	$3,114,337
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when Member leaves)*	$106,963
Travel from electoral division to the Parliament Building	$995,974
Lodging in or around Québec City	$1,579,141
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture and office equipment during the first term of office	$21,598
Electoral division office operation expenses	$5,345,483

EXPENSES

	Staff of Members	Office staff of House officers	Total
Wage bill	$14,234,559	$7,548,970	$21,783,529
Travel expenses	$406,022	$575,119	$981,141
Research services of political parties			$2,429,567

* Transition allowances granted in 2013-2014 amounted to $749,820. A portion of this amount, $642,857, had been provisioned in 2010-2011.

Mandates of the administrative branches as at 31 March 2014

The **Secretary General** is the highest-ranking public servant of the Assembly and chief advisor to the President and Members in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, administers day-to-day affairs and carries out all other duties assigned to him by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

The **General Secretariat and Office Secretariat Directorate** assists the Secretary General in day-to-day office management tasks, coordinates and carries out institutional and administrative mandates and projects, liaises with Members' offices and the administrative branches, and advises the Secretary General in matters related to information security. Furthermore, it provides the professional expertise and technical support needed to prepare and follow-up on meetings of the Office, and updates the administrative rules of the Office. Lastly, it coordinates the welcoming of new Members and provides them with general information on the administration of their allowances and working conditions as well as on the services available to them.

The **General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs** advises the National Assembly authorities in legal matters and provides professional expertise on the drafting of Private Members' public bills and private bills. It coordinates, plans and supervises the activities of the administrative units of the parliamentary sector and assists the Secretary General in his advisory role with respect to Assembly and committee proceedings.

The **Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate** prepares, sees to the orderly conduct of, and follows up on Assembly and committee proceedings, and coordinates all transcription, revision and editing activities for the production of the Journal des débats (Hansard). It publishes, in French and in English, the Order Paper and Notices and the Votes and Proceedings for every sitting, as well as the Standing Orders and Other Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly. It provides the expertise required for the planning, organizatio ., conduct and reporting of committee proceedings.

The **Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate** provides all professional and technical services with respect to the translation, revision, publishing and printing of bills and translates and revises administrative and other texts.

The **Associate General Secretariat for Administration** provides services with respect to debates publishing and broadcasting, human resources, financial resources, procurement and audit, building management and material resources, computer services and telecommunications, security and food services. It assists the Secretary General in managing the administrative affairs of the Assembly and its digital information services.

The **Building Management and Material Resources Directorate** is responsible for any construction, renovation, conservation, restoration, lay-out and maintenance work in or on the Assembly's buildings, and for furnishings and signage. It coordinates and monitors activities related to the following services: mail, courier, printing, reprography, office supplies and equipment and the distribution of parliamentary documents.

The **Computer Services, Debate Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate** is responsible for broadcasting parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and special activities in addition to producing audiovisual and multimedia education material. It advises the authorities on directions and policies in the area of information technologies and contributes to development strategies for new technologies. It provides services and the necessary support in the areas of computer technology, office automation and telecommunications.

The **Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate** coordinates and supervises activities relating to budget preparation and follow-up, the recording of transactions, and procurement. It advises and assists Assembly authorities and directors in the areas of finance and procurement.

The **Human Resources Directorate** advises Assembly authorities and directors with regard to administrative organization, personnel management, job evaluation and classification, and work organization. It carries out activities relating to work organization, staffing, personnel management, labour relations, remuneration, the interpretation of the working conditions of Members and political and administrative personnel, occupational health and safety and professional development. Lastly, it plans, coordinates and supervises activities relating to the management of Le Parlementaire and the Café du Parlement restaurant services.

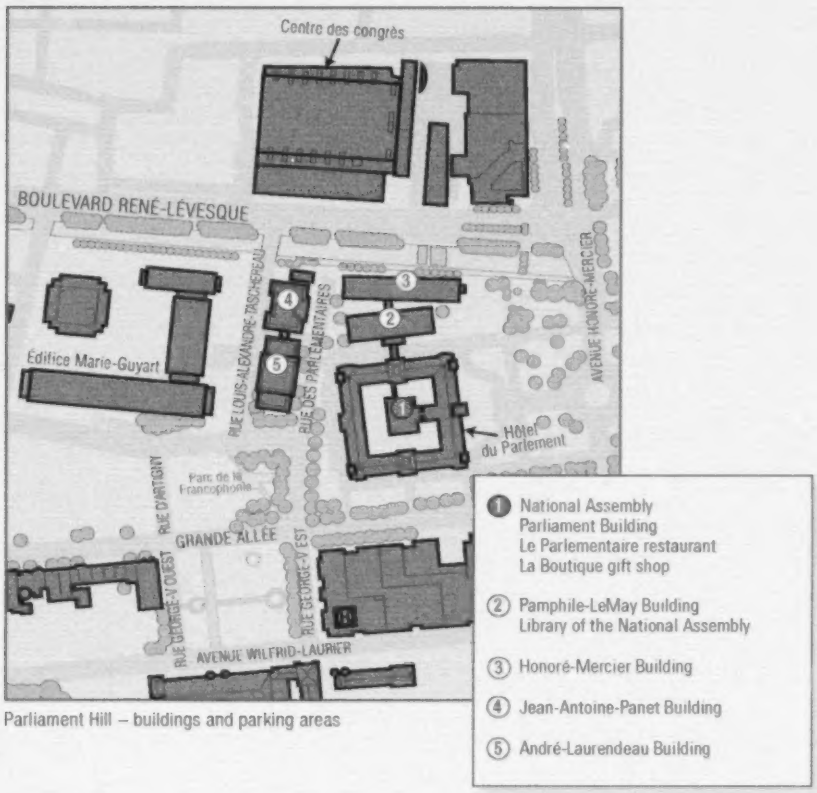
The **Security Directorate** ensures the protection of persons, buildings and property on Assembly premises, thus allowing it to ensure the proper conduct of parliamentary proceedings. It advises Assembly authorities on preventive and protective measures to be taken regarding security at the Parliament Building and in the riding offices. It monitors risks particularly through threat detection. In this regard, it informs authorities on all events of interest regarding parliamentary security.

The General Directorate for Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library provides professional and technical services with respect to communications, educational activities, protocol, welcoming of visitors, and interparliamentary and international relations. Its mission is also to meet documentary and research needs of parliamentarians and the administrative units of the Assembly. To do this, it provides reference, research, document and archives management services.

The **Communications, Educational Programs and Visitor Services Directorate** promotes the National Assembly's outreach and advises the authorities and administrative units on communication and public relations. In addition to this, it provides services in graphic design and editing, drafting, revision, Web communication as well as an information service to the media. Moreover, it coordinates the production of educational programs and provides technical support for parliamentary simulations. In conjunction with the Debates Broadcasting Service, it develops and coordinates the production of audiovisual and multimedia material. Furthermore, it provides visitor and information services as well as guided tours of the Parliament Building and manages the Assembly's gift shop.

The Interparliamentary and International Relations and Protocol Directorate advises Assembly authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the National Assembly in this area. Moreover, it provides protocol services for the Assembly and prepares and oversees official ceremonies. It also acts as a protocol advisor to the President, the Members and outside organizations.

SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Parliament Hill – buildings and parking areas

National Assembly
Parliament Building
1045, rue des Parlementaires
Québec (Québec) G1A 1A3

General information
Telephone: 418 643-7239
Toll-free number: 1 866 DÉPUTÉS
(1 866 337-8837)
Fax: 418 646-4271
Email: accueil@assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS

Regular hours*
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Summer hours (24 June to Labour Day)
Outdoor guided tours are also available
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 24 June, 1 July and Labour Day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Reservations are required for groups of more than 10 people.

Information
Telephone: 418 643-7239
Fax: 418 646-4271
Email: guides@assnat.qc.ca

LE PARLEMENTAIRE RESTAURANT

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*
This schedule may vary in summer.

Reservations
Telephone: 418 643-6640
Fax: 418 643-6378
Email: resto@assnat.qc.ca

LA BOUTIQUE gift shop

Regular hours*
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer hours (24 June to Labour Day)
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Information
Telephone: 418 643-8785
Fax: 418 528-6022
Email: boutique@assnat.qc.ca

** Subject to change without notice*

Communications, Educational Programs and Visitor Services Directorate
Reprography and Printing Division
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